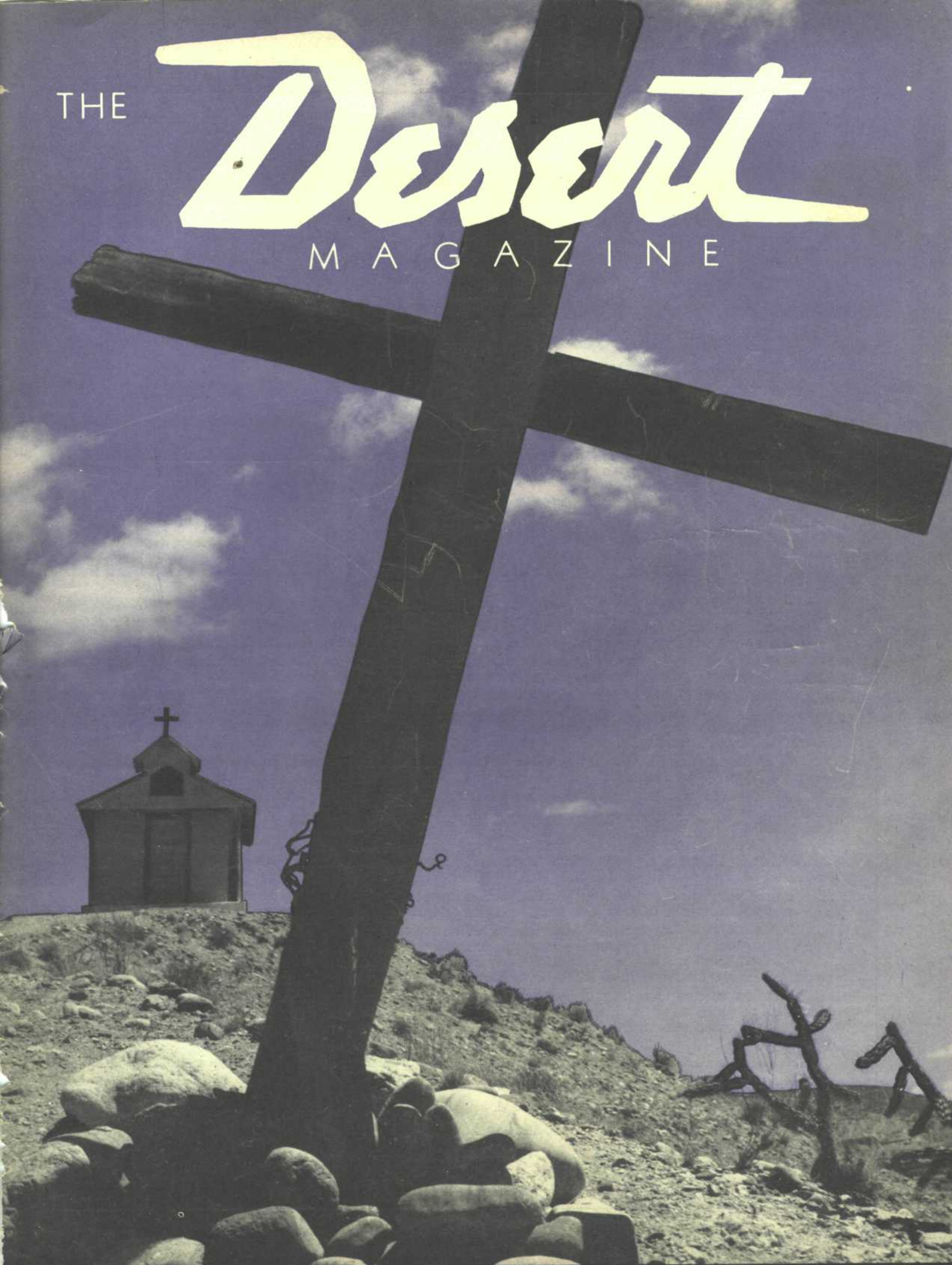


THE

Desert

M A G A Z I N E



APRIL, 1949

35 CENTS



Looking across the Palm Desert townsite from the clubhouse of the Shadow Mountain club. San Geronio peak, now capped with snow, is in the distant background.

***Palm Desert* • Something Really New Under the Sun**

Palm Desert is not just a plan or a dream . . . but an amazing reality !

Family life, with all of its luxuries and comforts, is being enjoyed daily at Palm Desert, for already this community has beautiful homes, bungalow hotels, stores and shops and is constantly going on.

Although work was commenced only two years ago to convert 1600 acres of desert land into a planned community, Palm Desert has 19 miles of paved streets and graded roads.

It has its own abundant water supply . . . 19 miles of water lines . . . fire protection . . . electricity . . . telephones . . . its own postoffice . . . full city conveniences . . . its new \$211,000 grammar school will be operating by Fall of 1949 . . . and property has been donated for a Community Church, where Sunday services are held regularly.

Palm Desert has its own Rotary Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Drama Society and its picturesque riding club, The Desert Raiders.

The Desert Magazine has built its magnificent new home in Palm Desert. The building is of modified Indian-Pueblo design and provides a unique desert museum, with art gallery where world-noted painters exhibit their works.

Internationally prominent men and women already have built and are occupying beautiful residences in Palm Desert . . . to enjoy the ultimate in gracious living . . . Others have built smaller residences, to live here all year round.

Palm Desert is not for the very wealthy alone. It is for all people whose business and professional skills, craftsmanship and abilities are required to fill the needs of any community.

Palm Desert is for people who are tired of living in the city with its rush and noise — people who wish to live, work and play where the true and unspoiled desert atmosphere is still preserved.

Palm Desert is located on land rising gently from and overlooking the floor of the Coachella Valley. It is sheltered in a protected cove of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

Fronting on Highway No. 111, Palm Desert is bisected by the famous Palms-to-Pines Highway, over which anyone can motor to snow sports in 55 minutes in winter, or enjoy the grandeur of pine-clad scenery in the mountains in the summer.

For information regarding home or business property in Palm Desert community write to

PALM DESERT CORPORATION

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

Clifford W. Henderson, Founder, President

Tract Office on Property or See Your Broker

Edith Ward, Tract Agent

DESERT CALENDAR

- March 30-April 2—Thirteenth annual Desert Circus. Palm Springs, California.
- April 2-3—National Giant Slalom Meet, Mount Rose, Nevada.
- April 2-3—Douglas Rodeo, Douglas, Arizona.
- April 7—Third annual spring ride of the Desert Caballeros at Wickenburg, Arizona.
- April 8-10—Phoenix Champion Rodeo, Phoenix, Arizona.
- April 9-May 1—Fifteenth annual Junior Arts show for Indian schools, Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona.
- April 9-16—College of the Pacific's 13th annual Death Valley expedition. Itinerary includes Walker Pass, Searles Lake, Death Valley, Rhyolite, Hoover Dam, Owens Valley, Mono Lake and Echo Summit Pass.
- April 9-17—Sierra club Easter vacation trip to Ajo mountains, Organ Pipe National Monument, Arizona.
- April 9-17—Sierra club Easter vacation outing to Havasu canyon, Arizona.
- April 10—Yuma Bandellero tour to Imperial Dam. Starts Yuma, Arizona, 9:00 a.m.
- April 16-17—Hobby show sponsored by the Women's club, Twenty-nine Palms, California.
- April 16-17—Third annual Gem and Mineral display, sponsored by Imperial Valley Gem society and Lapidary Guild, Junior College auditorium, El Centro, California.
- April 17—Easter Sunrise Services, Oasis of Maru, Twenty-nine Palms, California.
- April 17—Second annual Easter Parade, Twenty-nine Palms, California.
- April 17—Easter Sunrise Service, Grand Canyon National Park. Sunrise 5:50 a.m.
- April 18-21—Annual "Country Life Conference of Arizona Women," at University of Arizona, Tucson.
- April 22-24—Imperial Valley Round-up, Imperial, California.
- April 23—Annual flower show, Needles, California.
- April 23—Guest lecture: Charles Larabee showing color movies of remote Navajo domain, "Unexplored Utah Hinterland." Palm Springs Desert Museum 8 p.m.
- April 23—All-day auto-caravan to Santa Rosa Peak. Meet at Palm Springs Desert Museum 9 a.m.
- April 23—17th Annual Flower Show sponsored by the Barstow Women's Club, Barstow, California.
- April 23-24—Sierra club trek to Borrego desert, Anza state park, California.
- April 23-24—Lone Pine stampede, parade and contests, Lone Pine, California.
- April 24—Yuma Bandellero tour to Martinez Lake, Yuma, Arizona.
- April 30-May 1—Truck rodeo and convention of Arizona Motor Transport association.



Volume 12

APRIL, 1949

Number 6

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Address Correspondence to Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, California



Winter Surprise

First prize in Desert's February photo contest was won by Burton S. Turney of Glendale, California with the accompanying photo taken between Victorville and Barstow on February 1. Picture taken with a 4x5 Graflex, 1/100 second at f.32.

WHEN SNOW COMES to the DESERT

Anything can happen on the desert—and this year it was one of the heaviest snowfalls in the memory of the old-timers. Snowfall on the lower level of the desert country is freak weather—something that happens once every 15 or 20 years.

Of course every one with a camera was out taking snow pictures—and a fine assortment of

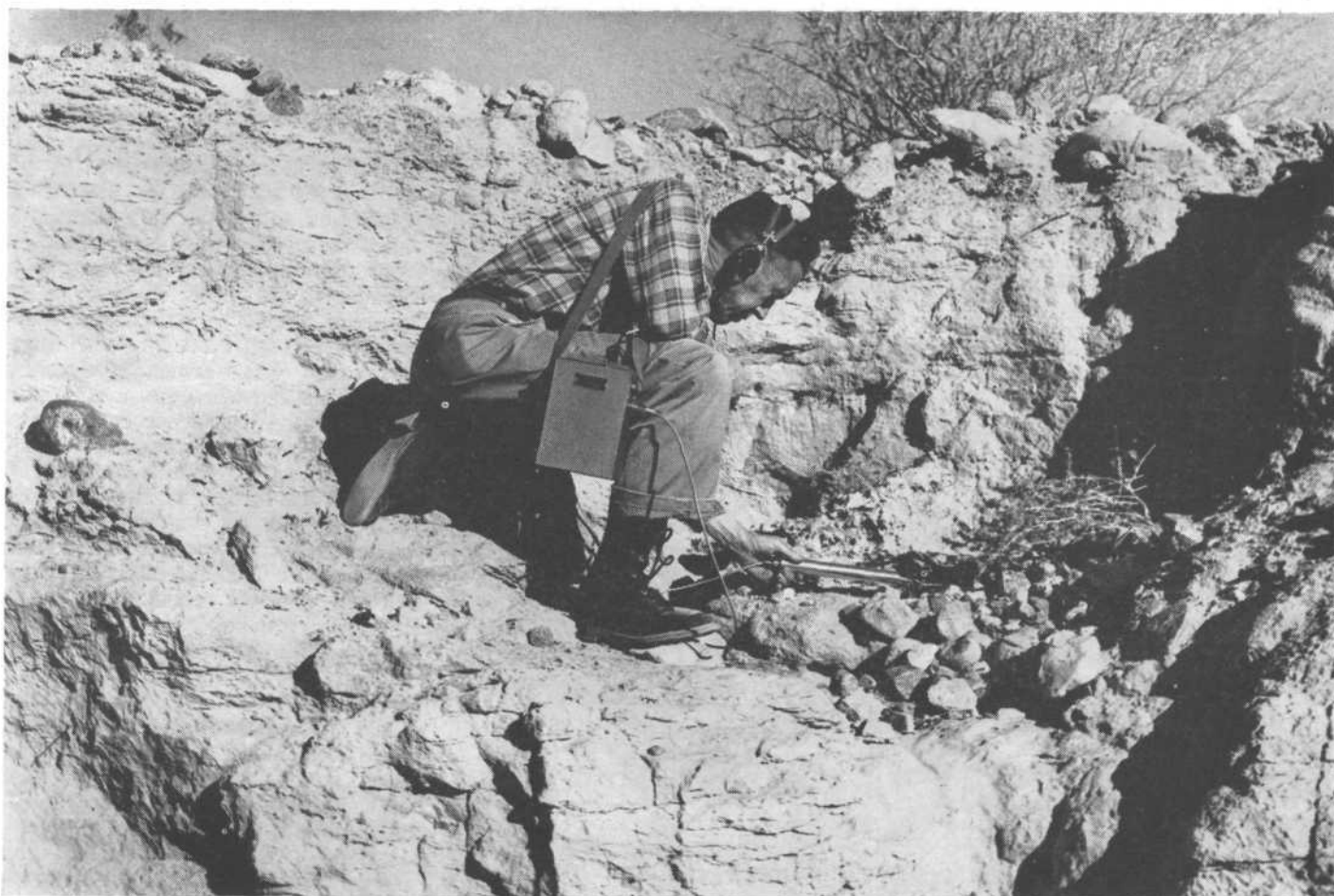
these came to the Desert Magazine in the February contest. The editorial staff decided to make the February awards for snow pictures only, and hold the best of the other entries over for the March judging.

In the May contest, the awards will be made for the best desert wildflower pictures, and in June the annual cover contest will be held.

Unusual Weather on the Mojave

Second prize was awarded to Clyde H. Lord, Los Angeles for his photograph taken in the Joshua tree desert. Taken with a 4x5 Speed Graphic, 1/25 second at f.22 with tripod and w/K2 filter.





The author working with a lightweight portable type of Geiger counter

He Prospects for Invisible Wealth

By WALTER FORD

A new generation of prospectors is in the field — and a new set of tools and rules. The old-timer who roamed the desert in quest of precious metals used a pick and pan, and his eyes. But the prospector seeking radioactive ores uses a Geiger counter — and his ears. The prospector cannot see the wealth he seeks — so he listens. In this story Walter Ford offers suggestions to those who are interested in the West's new mining activity.

RECENTLY I spent an evening with my old friend John Hilton at Valerie Corner and it was not long before we were discussing radio activity, alpha and beta rays, Geiger counters and many of the other phases of this ultra-modern prospecting tool. I don't know whether it's John's strategic location, or just that he is such a good listener, but he is certain to be visited by several prospectors each week, both pseudo and real.

In former days it was the lost-mine hunter, usually equipped with a fantastic doodlebug of his own conception and an equally bizarre account of how he came into possession of his lost mine knowledge. The desert men who

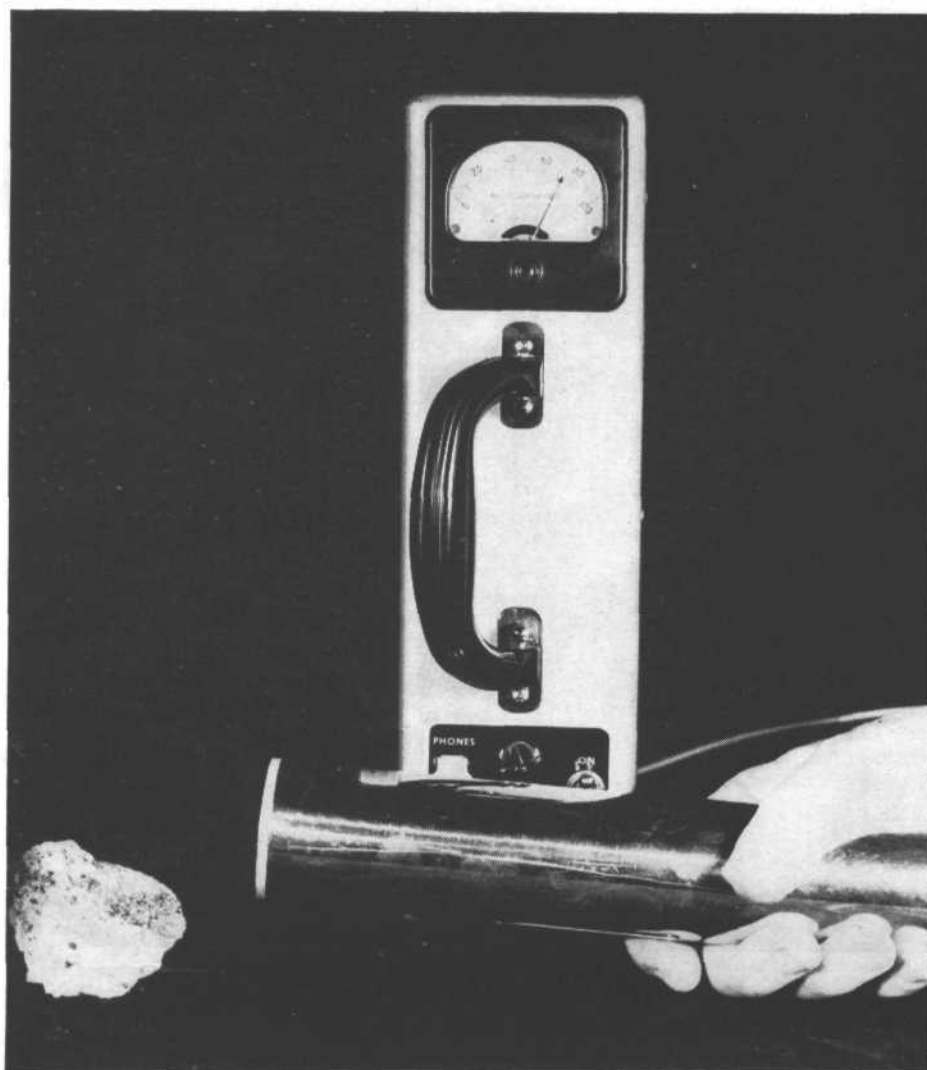
visit John today are of a different breed. While most of them carry the usual trappings of the prospector, the doodlebug metal locators have given way to modern Geiger counters, some of which, John told me, are so difficult to operate they make a standard counter seem like a child's toy.

John suggested that I check over the specimens in his display case with my Geiger counter for signs of radio activity. While several gave feeble indications, the real surprise came when we tested the crystallized dragon fly which was found in the mineralized well mentioned in John's story, "Fossils While You Wait," *Desert Magazine*, August 1946. While hardly strong enough to

interest the Atomic Energy Commission, this particular specimen did give a very healthy signal in the counter headphones.

I have noted similar indications of radio activity in some of the springs in the Borrego Badlands area and now I am wondering how long it will be before some enterprising promoter is offering those waters to a gullible public as a cure-all for any and all ailments to which the human body is subject.

Many uranium seekers are under the impression that uranium, like gold, is where you find it. To a certain extent that is true. If the prospector is looking



Testing a specimen of uranium ore with Geiger counter equipped with a meter to indicate the count.

for specimens that merely indicate some radio activity, they may be found in nearly any part of the desert. However, for one who expects financial gain from his operations, the quest is not quite so easy.

One of the stipulations of the Atomic Energy Commission's offer is that to qualify for the \$10,000 bonus for the discovery and production of new domestic fields of high grade uranium ores, any find must assay 20 percent uranium oxide by weight and be capable of producing 20 tons of ore. Of course, lesser amounts of similar ore and others of lower grades may be sold to the Commission at the prevailing prices per pound, but even these would have to be produced on large scale operations to be profitable.

With uranium strikes having been reported from various points on the Colorado desert in Southern California in recent months, the washes radiating eastward and westward from the Salton sea have become a popular hunting

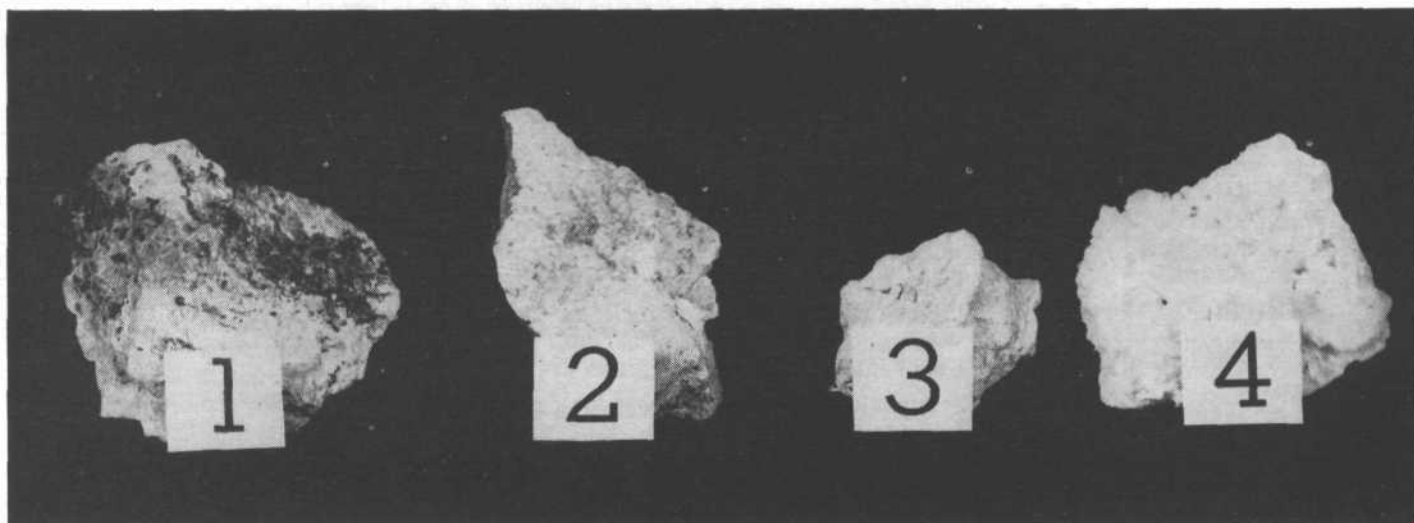
ground. And despite the advice given from time-to-time in the columns of *Desert Magazine* relative to driving in sandy washes, some motorists fail to heed the chief requisite of keeping the car moving until solid ground is reached. A short time ago near the head of Palm Wash I came upon two uranium prospectors hopelessly bogged down in the sand. To the experienced desert driver, Palm wash is fairly easy to travel, even with a stock car. The two prospectors had stopped in soft sand to check some sandstone formations and were unable to get under way again. With my jeep I soon had them out of their difficulty. Fortunately, the weather was mild and aside from several laborious and anxious hours they were none the worse for their experience. But even with ideal weather conditions their predicament might have ended more seriously if I had not happened to find them when I did.

While it is beyond the scope of this story to give a technical description of

the Geiger counter, a brief outline of its operating principles will perhaps be of interest. The tube portion of the counter consists of a glass envelope containing a thin tungsten wire through its center, which is surrounded by a copper cylinder. Certain gases are inserted in the glass envelope, after which it is sealed and placed in a metal tube called the probe. Flexible wires extend from the center wire and the copper cylinder in the glass envelope to an amplifier, similar to that contained in a radio receiver. Normally the gases within the glass envelope are non-conductors, but when emanations from a radio active source enter the tube, then they become conductive. This permits a current to flow between the elements contained in the glass envelope, resulting in a sharp click in the headphones connected to the counter amplifier, and in the case of larger counters a visible reading on a meter. It is the frequency of these clicks, or counts per minute above the normal background count which determines the proximity and strength of radio active materials. The background count of a Geiger counter is the count that occurs at random intervals when the counter is separated from a radio-active source and is attributed to cosmic rays entering the counter tube. The number of background counts per minute varies with the type of Geiger tube used, the circuit used in the amplifier, and the location where the readings are taken. Cosmic radiations are at their maximum on a high mountain top and may disappear completely in some high-walled canyons.

Reliable counters are now available to the public in a variety of sizes that range from the simple portable units weighing around five pounds, to the multi-tube instruments, which, owing to their bulk, are rarely found outside the laboratories. For the prospector in the field the choice lies between the type in which the presence of radio-activity is indicated on headphones, and the type which uses both headphones and a meter as indicators. For quantitative measurements the latter type is to be preferred, but its weight may offset its advantages over the simpler headphone type. Although I have used both types of counters, I prefer the lighter model. It may be slung over one's shoulder like a canteen, leaving the arms free, yet it may be placed in operation immediately when necessary.

The failure of some Geiger counter operators to understand the nature of background counts often leads them to erroneous assumptions when searching for radio active deposits. Not long



Some of the rare uranium ores: (1) Pitchblende (dark metallic appearing spots) and Gummite (reddish yellow). (2) Autunite (sulphur yellow with darker yellow streaks and pearly luster). (3) Carnotite (soft, powdery, brilliant canary yellow). (4) Aragonite (Uraniferous calcite. Crystalline, milky-white).

ago I was exploring the terrain in a wash near Hidden springs with a counter. A short distance up the wash I met a very excited prospector who declared he was finding evidence of uranium all over the place. While I had found a few fairly active specimens, the two counters I had with me did not confirm the man's findings. Checking his counter I learned that it had a background count nearly double that of mine, and that its owner was taking the high count as an indication of radio activity.

Authorities differ as to what is a worthwhile specimen of uranium. The Atomic Energy Commission is reported to be interested in nothing with a count of less than 40 per minute, that is, 40 above the background count, yet many assayers assure their clients that ore with a count as low as 30 is worthy of consideration. Comparison in counts between two different instruments on the same specimen is meaningless unless the conditions are exactly the same for both tests. These require that the sample of material be the same distance from each counter tube, that the same area of the sample be exposed to the same part of each tube, and finally, that the tests be made in the same location.

I have often felt the need for some sort of standard against which ores could be checked in the field. Recently I have learned that a prominent west coast manufacturer of Geiger counters is preparing to meet that need. He has announced a kit containing samples of different percentages of uranium oxide by volume, together with the apparatus necessary to main-

tain the same conditions relative to the counter tube between the master samples and the specimen under test. Lacking such a standard the prospector may obtain a piece of radio active ore for a nominal sum from one of the gem and mineral shops which advertise in *Desert Magazine*. While the radio active sample would not permit a quantitative test unless it previously had been compared with a laboratory standard, it would provide a check at all times as to whether or not a counter was operating as it should.

Mort Immel was a prospector of the old school, who lived and operated around Needles, California, for a number of years. I recall his telling me prospecting was like a tropical fever, once it got into your blood you would never get it out of your system. That seems to apply equally well to the present day army whose Geiger counters have replaced the gold pan of their old-time prototype.

I have a friend who has been collecting rocks on the desert for the past 20 years. Since his knowledge of geology is limited, his specimens have been selected solely for their oddity of shape and coloring. While visiting him recently I went over his collection with a Geiger counter and noted that one rock gave a reading far in excess of anything I have encountered outside a laboratory. In the language of the physicist, it was extremely "hot". Now my friend, equipped with a counter of his own, is spending every available week-end on the desert, frantically trying to retrace his steps to what he believes will be a fortune.

Not all of the search for uranium ores is confined to the wide open

spaces. There is a story being told about the householder sending a large piece of basement concrete to the Atomic Energy Commission because it felt hot to his touch, and during the flurry of a reported uranium strike near one of the desert communities a few months ago a piece of porcelain bath tub was brought in for test and actually gave indications on a Geiger counter.

Already a modernized version of the old mine-salting racket has been uncovered in connection with uranium prospecting. It has been found that certain luminous paints such as are used on watch and clock faces will register on a counter. A story was told to me about a Geiger counter salesman who rushed out to the desert where a uranium strike had just been reported. Legitimate sales were not going very well, so he hit upon the idea of painting the palm of his hand with the luminous chemicals. He would then stroll over the property of an unsuspecting resident, pick up a piece of rock, and demonstrate to the owner how rich the rock was in uranium. After that it was a simple matter to collect his money and hand a counter to the victim.

In an address before the Prospectors' Institute in Los Angeles a few months ago, Dr. Robert Webb of the University of California suggested that the prospector for uranium ores first determine the kind of ores he would like to locate and then work in the type of terrain where such ores are likely to be found. Many old-time prospectors used to follow a similar line of reasoning. In that connection I am often reminded of the advice the late Adrian Eg-

bert, formerly of Cave Springs, used to give embryo lost mine hunters. Adrian would scoff at most of the lost mine stories where gold nuggets were assertedly found far from any original source. He would exclaim, "When looking for hickory nuts, you first have to find hickory trees. It's the same way with finding placer gold, you have to be in placer country."

The prospector for uranium would do well to familiarize himself with some of the more valuable uranium ores and for that purpose I recommend the *Handbook of Uranium Minerals* by DeMent and Dake. The authors have listed over 150 radio-active minerals alphabetically, together with hardness and gravity scales and other information which makes it a worthwhile addition to any prospector's kit. Additional information is contained in the Domestic Uranium Program Circular No. 2, which may be obtained from the Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C.

Before concluding this story, I should like to offer a few words of advice to the prospective purchaser of a Geiger counter. Buy your counter from a reliable manufacturer. The wide-spread interest in uranium prospecting has resulted in many types of counters being offered the public, some of which are of very inferior grade. Dependable counters are little more expensive than some now being put out by fly-by-night concerns, and the purchaser has the assurance that if the counter ever needs servicing, the manufacturer will be there to meet that need.

OLD INDIAN CAMP TO BECOME MODERN RESORT COMMUNITY

Palm trees and speed boats, red sand cliffs and the largest artificial lake in the world are among the year-round attractions which pull visitors to Overton, Nevada, by the side of Lake Mead. Archeologists revel in relics of early Indian culture, exploring and reconstructing ruins of a "Lost City" and studying symbols chipped on rock faces by red men long ago. Fishermen exult in large catches of bass and other fish which lurk among mountain tops submerged when Hoover dam backed up waters of the Colorado river to form the lake. Whitened chimneys of St. Thomas, the city swallowed by the lake, sometimes appear above the surface during low water season. The old Spanish trail leading to it is still visible on both sides. Between Overton, near the north end of the lake, and Hoover dam are 60 miles of water, 600 feet deep in places, walled for 12 miles by rock sides of Boulder canyon.

Desert Wildflower Forecast . . .

As this forecast is written early in March there is the promise that a riot of color will greet the pre-Easter traveler to the desert this spring. Rising temperatures, and on the upper levels melting snows, are giving life and vigor to billions of tiny sprouts over the five southwestern states which in late March and through April and into May will burst forth in a gorgeous display.

Here in the Coachella valley of California, in the area surrounding Desert Magazine's workshop, the dunes already show great patches of purple verbena. Some of the lower slopes are almost covered with this flower. *Geraea* (desert sunflower) and *encelia* have entered the spring flower show. Many have blossomed in the past week, promising fields of gold later. Barring hot winds or other unforeseen climatic conditions, the peak should continue from March 20 to early April on the lower levels and through April and into May on elevations above 2000 feet.

From the southern section of California's desert Eva Wilson writes: "At present the desert floor is green with plantain, an indication of sufficient moisture to insure a good flower display for the next few months. Along highway 80, El Centro to Yuma, verbena is in bloom. Primroses are everywhere, even on the big dunes, and will be in their prime in a few weeks. *Geraea* and *encelia* are beginning what promises to be a fine display. Beaver-tail and hedgehog cactus should be at its best from the first to the middle of April. Especially fine stands can be seen on the Coachella canal road between Frinks and Mecca, in the Cargo Muchacho area, Borrego valley area of Anza state park, and on Vallecito road south of Highway 78. Palo Verde trees will be best during late April. They are plentiful on Highway 99, on the Palo Verde road (Ogilby to Blythe), Coachella canal road and through Box canyon to Desert Center. A colorful display will also appear on the road from Yuma to Quartzite, Arizona. Ironwood should bloom in April on Highway 78 and in the whole Cargo Muchacho area, and desert willow on the Yuma sand dunes and around Palm Springs."

There hasn't been enough warm weather to produce any spectacular effects in the Mojave desert according to Mary Beal who writes from the Daggett area. A few warm days have given a boost to plants already started and myriads of new plants have sprouted into tiny rosettes an inch high. Desert

dandelions, wooly breeches and small mentzelias will be the first to make a showing. But the flower season will be late.

Regarding the wildflower predictions for this spring in Death Valley, T. R. Goodwin, Park Superintendent, writes: "There was sufficient precipitation for a record germination and we confidently expected this to happen but the long exceptionally cold period which followed the rain and snow apparently prevented germination until the cold winds had dried out the moisture and at this time there is only a scattering of tiny plants showing in the warmest protected places. Undoubtedly above 2,500 feet elevation where the snow has remained on the ground, the display will be far above normal but this will come late probably after Easter when travel will have fallen off materially." L. Floyd Keller, park naturalist, Death Valley, has reported a recent rainfall in the amount of 0.93 inch—result of two steady storms which may boost the flower growth in the valley.

Wild flower crop for Searles Valley, Indian Wells Valley, Death Valley and Rand district, looks more promising than anticipated. Clark W. Mills writes from Trona, on the Mojave, that the slow melting of snows has given the desert more moisture than it has had in several years. On an extensive trip into these areas Mills found a plentiful showing of green in the valleys but none in higher altitudes. "Rock asters, coreopsis, blue lupine and owl's clover will be larger in growth and blossom than at any time since 1937," he predicts. "All of the washes have fine showings of blue lupine and unless a late freeze comes along in March, an early display beginning March 20 should be excellent."

"Blossoms which may be expected in April in the Twenty-nine Palms region are many," writes Sara M. Schenck. "The Mojave yucca is conspicuous on the hillsides where blue larkspur, white forget-me-not, and purple chia are also found. Very close to the ground are the small bright flowers of purple mat, desert star (a tiny white daisy), and Bigelow mimulus. Two bushes, each with intense purple flowers, are the bladder sage and the California dalea. A plentiful shrub in bloom at this time at the Twenty-nine Palms entrance to the Joshua Tree national monument is twinfruit. Golden bush and Mohave aster are in bloom among the rocks while open spaces are sometimes covered with gold fields and white pin-

cushion-flower. Under pinyon pines in the higher hills, the scarlet blossom of the Mojave cactus appears. Beavertail and hedgehog are in bloom at this time."

Frank R. Givens of the Joshua Tree national monument reports that the flower display for April is uncertain. "The flowers should be excellent," he says, "but we have failed to get the rising temperatures which are normal for this time of the year. I went through the Monument February 15, and there were no flowers in the Monument worthy of mention. From Desert Center to the north the brittlebush (*encelia*) is beautiful, the lupin just fair, and a few desert stars are out. It is hoped that March will be warmer."

From Julian, Myrtle Botts writes: "At this time, all signs point to a bountiful crop of wildflowers for spring. Many flowers are in bloom in the desert regions. Among those noticed were gold fields, verbena, heliotrope, *encelia*, primrose, fiddleneck, a few daisy and monkey flowers, coreopsis, lupine and in the badlands many ghost flowers in hidden canyons. In Borrego country the desert lilies bloomed in December and were frozen. There is doubt that they will bloom again this year. The snow extended into the desert regions for miles. The Vallecitos country had a great deal of snow so the flowers there will be late."

"According to Mr. Baccus, our weather observer, we have had slightly less than four inches of rain in Antelope Valley in spite of our two feet of snow and we had no fall rains whatever, so unless nature is not acting as usual there will be no bumper crop of flowers here," writes Jane S. Pinheiro. "There will be flowers but they will be late. The grass and fillaree are just starting up and a few poppies are to be found, but as yet no sign of the earliest blossoms. The wild current and manzanitas are not in bloom though already a month late. Wilsona and Hivista districts were more fortunate than the west end of the valley. They had good fall rains and the squaw cabbage or desert candles should be excellent at Hivista, and Wilsona should have lilies and verbena in abundance."

ARIZONA

Fred Gibson reporting through Julian M. King, Mesa, states the annuals are still not making much growth because it has been too cold. The perennial bushes should have benefited by the rains and be better than for several years and cacti should be in flower from mid-April on.

A. T. Bicknell, Casa Grande na-

tional monument, believes that if the warm weather continues without another cold wave, the wildflower display will be the best since the spring of 1941.

Marvin H. Frost, acting naturalist at Saguaro national monument in southern Arizona, reports: "The moisture that has fallen the past three months has penetrated to a depth of 23 inches. Unless we get some early hot dry winds the plants will have enough moisture to produce an abundance of flowers. Some of the weeds and grasses are growing at this early date in protected areas. The penstemon has eighteen inches of new growth, and the hedgehog cactus should be in bloom in a few weeks."

Heavy January rains in Tumacacori national monument, southern Arizona, slacked off to normal for February, with warm dry weather the latter half of the month, and Earl Jackson, superintendent of the monument, expects a fine display of wildflowers. He writes, "I anticipate nothing until the tail end of March. By then the ocotillos should be getting well under way, and at that same period the covenas should be in prime condition for the best rocky hillside blooming in several years."

Wildflower forecast for the Organ Pipe Cactus national monument area in southern Arizona, remains a favorable one for April. "The unusual freezes have almost eliminated some of the perennial blooms such as the desert honeysuckle and beloperone but the annuals such as poppies, owl's clover and blue lupine that make up the mass displays are coming up in abundance," writes William R. Superbaugh, superintendent of the monument. "The peak of these blossoms," he says, "will be in mid-April. Cacti blossoms should be little affected by freezes and start with the hedgehog displays in April followed by the organ pipe, saguaro, senita and others in May and June. The desert between Sonoyta and Rocky Point will have better flowers than last year. Verbena and *encelia* are beginning to bloom now in that area."

Many flowers already are in blossom along Highway 80 east from Yuma, Arizona. These include, verbena, primrose, *geraea*, *phacelia*, and also south from Wellton along the road to Tinajas Altas, watering place on the historical Camino del Diablo. Unless hot winds interfere the wildflowers in this area should reach their peak between March 20 and April 1.

NEVADA

If showers bring April flowers then the Lake Mead recreational area in northwestern Arizona and southeast-

ern Nevada is anticipating a big floral display according to Park Naturalist Maurice Sullivan. January snow and rain deposited 3.45 inches of moisture in the soil with very little run-off, but so far cold weather has prevented much plant growth. Dora Tucker reports that the moisture is reviving many drought-stricken plants in the Las Vegas, Boulder City, and Lake Shore areas.

NEW MEXICO

"Very few sections of New Mexico go down as low as 3,000 feet, most are above 4000 feet and large sections of the state are above 5000 feet. With this range in altitude, we have a diversified flora—and most plants flower late," writes Howard J. Dittmer from the University of New Mexico. "The California poppy is one of our earliest and most conspicuous spring flowers. Its general range is over the southern part of the state and some years causes the Organ mountains near Las Cruces to appear almost a solid orange. This plant usually makes an appearance before April 1, but is never exceedingly abundant until that time. This year will be a good one for this plant as well as many desert plants which will be in bloom the latter part of March and April."

UTAH

Chas. J. Smith, superintendent Zion and Bryce canyon national parks, sends in the following report of Park Naturalist M. V. Walker: "Although southern Utah has experienced one of the most severe winters on record, there is reason to believe that the above normal snow fall and accumulated precipitation will reward us with an unusual wildflower display this spring. The peak of the season will be late—from April 20 at the lower elevations to May 20 at the middle elevations. Early cacti should present a beautiful display of dark red blossoms, and the thick-leaved *Yucca* will no doubt develop some very large stalks. All bulb plants should be at their best, including various species of sego lilies. Flowering shrubs make a considerable portion of our spring floral display. Serviceberry and Fremont barberry or desert barberry will blossom profusely. Many consider the desert barberry with its waxy, yellow blossoms set against a background of spiny green leaves, one of the most beautiful of the desert flowering shrubs. The most showy and most photographed of all our spring flowers is the large delicately colored Palmer penstemon which literally forms a border along the high in Zion canyon. Early basal leaves indicate that this season will be one of the best."



Kenneth M. Chapman, who has spent many years restoring the ceramics of the ancient Indians to its former quality.

He Revived the Art of the Ancients

The tourist trade was bringing rapid deterioration to the ceramic art of the pueblo Indians of New Mexico. Then Kenneth Chapman and a little group of associates decided to do something about it. As a result it is now possible to obtain native crafts products with all the beauty of color and design that characterized the vessels of the ancient tribesmen.

By BEULA M. WADSWORTH

MARKET day was in full swing in the patio of the historic Old Governor's palace in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Stout brown-skinned Pueblo Indian women in long skirts of bright calico, and husky men wearing red head-bands and closely-drawn blankets stood about in stolid quiet. In front of them on the pavement was an array of decorated pots and bowls of their own handcraft.

Tourists milled around in the patio, chatting, pricing, and purchasing the wares. This was the first time the Indians had ever been allowed a central market for their pottery.

A tall smooth-faced man with a kindly smile stood in the background. The Indians all knew him. He had made this opportunity possible. He was Kenneth M. Chapman. He addressed one of the potters, "Marie, I will give you twice as much for this piece as for any other pot. If you make something better than this, I will pay you still more." Thus encouraged, Marie and the other potters went back to their villages stirred to renewed activity. As a consequence, the women began producing finer pottery for a growing market.

This was about 1920. Kenneth Chapman from his vantage point as curator of the School of American Research with headquarters at the State museum in the old Governor's palace, realized that Indian craftsmanship, developed through centuries of pueblo life, was deteriorating under the impact of the white man's civilization. He saw that the well-meant but misguided taste of curio hunters was vitiating the fine native character of this Pueblo art. Buyers, for instance, were asking for odd shapes and decoration foreign to Indian style. Design rhythms, simple shapes and mellow glazes were being replaced by crude lines and garish colors. Also, he saw with consternation that too many of the art treasures, the beautiful prehistoric wares and irreplaceable ancestral pots, were being carried away and scattered to the far corners of the continent. The tragic truth was that the Indian artists' age-old copybook was unwittingly being torn apart—being scuttled away leaf by leaf, to be totally lost to them. Chapman with his energetic pioneering spirit not only saw all this, he began to do something about it.

Oddly enough, a critical chapter in the history of American art started with a treasured ancient Zuni water jar at the moment when it lay broken in pieces. It happened at the home of Elizabeth Sergeant in Santa Fe while she was entertaining several people at



This reproduction of the painting, "Her Daughter" by the late Walter Ufer of Taos was made at Laguna pueblo in 1917. Photo by Peter A. Juley and Son.

afternoon tea. The guest deplored the mishap.

"So many other examples of this authentic art are following the same fate," one remarked.

"Most of the better things are disappearing in the hands of tourists and private collectors," another added. "Even museums have little realization of the different stages and styles—their collections are heterogeneous. After all, what museum has space in which to attempt to represent the various periods?"

Thus a discussion was precipitated. Chapman urged that something be done at once to save the remnant. One idea suggested another. The big need, they agreed, was a museum in

Santa Fe as a working center for all the Southwestern tribes. Such a museum should set up exhibits of superior pottery as a pattern for better workmanship. There should be laboratories for scientists to experiment with clays, pigments, methods of firing, et cetera. Nothing like this had ever been done before.

As a first step toward this ambitious objective, Chapman offered his own pottery collection. Then Harry P. Mera and Miss Sergeant added their's. Space was granted for storing this pottery in the basement of the State museum. Then a group of interested people formed an organization now known as the Indian Arts Fund, incorporated.

Kenneth Chapman, began to work with the Indians personally. He drove

countless miles to visit the craftsmen in their pueblos. He loaned the potters photographs, colored drawings, and actual examples of the best pottery to which he had access. He invited them to the Museum basement where he gave long talks on design. He bought their best wares, both to encourage the Indians to better their production and to add to the already established nucleus of a collection.

More funds were needed. It was urgent that money be available to buy such rare pieces of pottery as were still available in pueblo homes and in the outlying Spanish towns, and trading posts before it should be too late. With an aggressive effort by the board of trustees the fund grew speedily.



Above—This rare Acoma jar of the 17th century was discovered by Kenneth Chapman when he saw one patterned after it being used in a movie scene at the tribal pueblo. Photo courtesy Laboratory of Anthropology.

Below—The renaissance of Indian pottery in New Mexico grew out of the accidental breaking of this treasured Zuni jar. Photo courtesy Laboratory of Anthropology.

It was obvious that Kenneth Chapman with his keen judgment and fine working relations with the Indians should assume the responsibilities of procurement. His friendly manner easily won the confidence of the Indians, yet they were often hesitant about revealing their ownership of ancient pots and sacred ceremonial vessels, or parting with them.

Month after month he followed the trails which led to the mesas where the treasures he sought were to be found—

his pockets bulging with silver dollars. There was an astute psychology in jingling a handful of money as he traded for the wares needed to carry out the project at the museum. The tribesmen did not always realize that what he was doing would in the years ahead bring useful employment and monetary return to them. But they learned to respect his honesty.

One day at Acoma, the ancient sky city built on a 350-foot rock mesa, he saw a motion picture company filming

a scene in "Redskin." The episode then in action was a procession of Acoma maidens. Chapman mentally inventoried the galaxy of painted pots they were lifting from their heads to the ground. Suddenly his attention was attracted to one pot—a very unusual vessel painted with a black design.

"Whose jar is that?" he inquired of several bystanders. No one seemed to know. He knew a way to find out. He walked over and nimbly snatched the pot. The gesture (though it inadvertently necessitated a film retake) did what he expected—it astonished and incensed the owner. With quiet explanations he soon learned from her that this jar was a copy made by her aunt from a much older bowl.

When he found the old woman he discovered that she had known him a long time and liked him, but had never revealed to him her secret antique. She reluctantly brought it from its hidden retreat. It was a rare specimen of the earliest known Acoma ware—a necessary link in the historic series he was building.

Buying the pot was not a simple matter. He spent three days negotiating. There on the floor sat the stolid old woman, friendly but firm. Opposite her was Chapman laying down his dollars on the hard-packed clay floor. He made her offers, persuaded her, cajoled her, clinked coins, and built up piles of dollars alluringly before her eyes. At length she set her price at 100 dollars. It was Chapman's turn to be unwilling. There were many more hours of bargaining. But in the end he left with the pot, in exchange for 70 silver dollars.

Four years after the incident of the broken Zuni jar, a distinguished visitor came to Santa Fe. He was the art connoisseur and philanthropist, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. At the museum Chapman escorted him down the shadowy stairway to the basement, and flung open for him a heavy door. Rockefeller was amazed at what he saw—literally thousands of rare Indian vessels. He was fascinated by the story Chapman told him, and deeply interested in the project that had been undertaken. He envisioned the Indian Arts Fund as the nucleus of a larger scheme with a nationwide scope of service, a service in which he himself might participate.

A few days after Rockefeller's departure there came a letter from him with a generous check, and a modest explanation, "to enlarge the pottery collection and to attest to the donor's kindling interest in the little group working as volunteers on one thing and doing the job well."

Later Rockefeller asked for a program for his consideration that would

care for the Fund's objectives and at the same time incorporate the broader policies and purposes which he himself had previously suggested.

The eventual result was an incorporated institution with thirty-two trustees representing the departments of anthropology of major museums and universities.

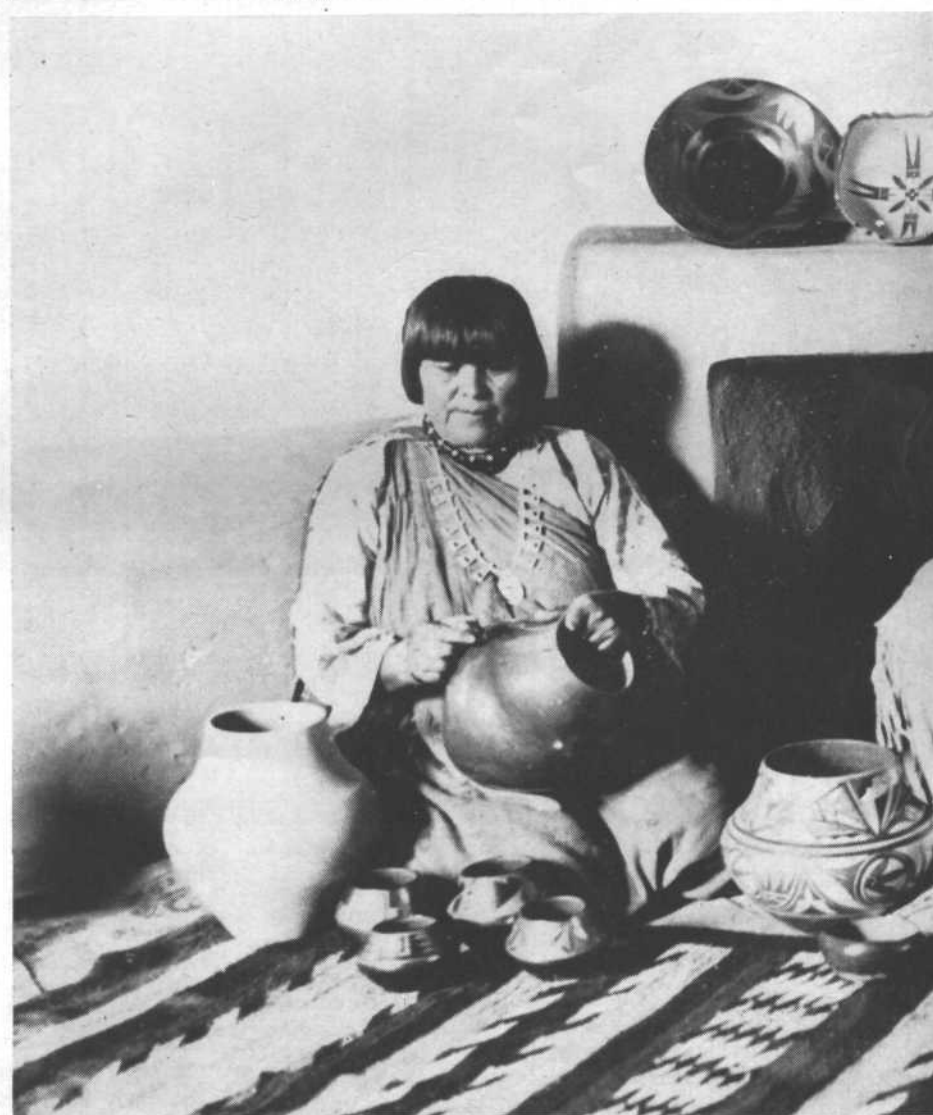
Thus there came about in September, 1931, the dedication of the Laboratory of Anthropology, erected in Santa Fe and financed with funds from the Rockefeller Foundation. The laboratory's 58-acre tract of land, commands a magnificent view of mountain ranges and the historic city of Santa Fe. The architecture, which was designed by John Gaw Meem, was chosen as a result of a \$7,500 architectural competition.

As planned originally the institution was to have nine units, and several of these have been completed during the intervening years. They include laboratories, offices, library, assembly hall, and exhibition galleries, all of which impress the visitor as being worked to capacity.

Since the incident of the broken Zuni jar, Kenneth Chapman has realized his dream of completing in chronological sequence all the pottery styles existent since the Spanish conquest of 1540. The Laboratory of Anthropology has now been merged with the Museum of New Mexico. All exhibits are at the museum. The laboratory, now closed to the public, devotes its efforts to research which in time will include graduate students of the University of New Mexico.

Kenneth M. Chapman, retired under the state department of education, works at his desk for publication. "At 72," he said modestly, "I find myself working harder than ever." Hitherto, except for the publication of a few books including "The Pottery of Santo Domingo Pueblo", he had been too busy with his field work to put his great mass of material into publishable form. He points out that the carefully organized museum collections present an endless variety of decoration for public use. They form a veritable dictionary of American source material for the use of the modern designer of textiles and many other manufactured products.

As though to place a tentative period on the manuscript, Chapman remarked, "Truly, the outlook has never been better. With the saving and storing of these vast Indian collections, and their use by all who can profit by them and make them better known, we Americans should become increasingly aware of the value of Indian art as one of our greatest cultural assets."



Above—The terraced pueblo of Acoma was the source of many rare vessels for the collection at Santa Fe. Photo by Mullarky of Gallup.

Below—Marie of San Ildefonso pueblo polishes a water jar. She is recognized as one of the outstanding pottery makers among Pueblo Indians.



Leopard lizard. Photo by the Author.

Lizard With Spots and Speed

By RICHARD L. CASSELL

EQUIPPED with legs that are built for speed, this member of the lizard family, for whom Leopard lizard is a good descriptive name), will stand as rigid as a statue until a human approaches within a few feet—and then scamper away almost faster than the eye can follow.

The Leopard lizard (*Crotaphytus wislizenii*) has its habitat in the sterile wastelands and is one of several lithelimbbed and pretty species to be found in southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

The head is narrow and the coloration a brownish gray with bold brown spots and blotches. The legs are reticulated with brick-red and across the back are streaks of the same color. This striking color pattern is particularly vivid during the breeding season. Ordinarily the female is quite somber, but during the early summer, she, too, becomes more colorful.

This reptile is oviparous, depositing a moderate number

of soft-shelled eggs which hatch in eight to ten weeks. I might state here, as a matter of interest, that certain families, among which are the *Iguanidae*, *Lacertidae*, *Anguidae*, and *Scincidae* are a number of species producing their young alive."

Although this creature is capable of withstanding very high temperatures, I am inclined to believe that direct desert sun would bring catastrophe in a very short time. I have noted—and this applies to lizards in general—that although they frequently bask in the sun, this is done in the early hours before the inferno of midday, for practically without exception lizards will halt in the shade after scampering over blisteringly hot rocks in search of insect prey.

In the fall of the year when the nights become noticeably cool, the leopard lizard like all his clan seeks burrows and clefts in the parched rocky soil, where the winter is spent in a state of torpor until late spring. (Ditmars)

Lost Lead-Silver Mine in Nevada

By L. W. MORGAN

Illustration by Jerry Fike O'Hara

THE excitement generated by the discovery of Tonopah and Goldfield started an epidemic of mining activity that spread rapidly and infected almost every human being who had ever heard that gold came out of the ground. The hills of Nevada were so infested with prospectors, mining men, promoters, and tenderfeet that the coyotes and jackrabbits wore the soles off their feet trying to keep out of the way. Any one who didn't have a pocket full of samples was looked upon with suspicion.

All that activity in a mineralized country was bound to turn up an occasional prospect that looked good enough to induce some one to risk his money in developing it further. One such was located a few miles in a general northeasterly direction from a flag stop on the Southern Pacific called Humboldt, not far from the Humboldt Sink of '49 fame.

At the time I arrived there it was a booming camp, boasting a number of frame buildings, a postoffice, dozens of tents, and the usual complement of deadfalls and mantraps. People from

surrounding states were arriving every day. It answered to the name of Rosebud.

One day the stage unloaded two young men who obviously were tenderfeet. They walked into the general store where they purchased an outfit of grub sufficient to last them a couple of weeks. This they stowed away in two packsacks, along with blankets they had brought with them. They asked no questions, nor volunteered any information. As it wasn't considered healthy to ask personal questions in a boom mining camp, they went their way with no more than a curious glance from the bystanders. They seemed to know where they were going. They took off in a westerly direction and were promptly forgotten.

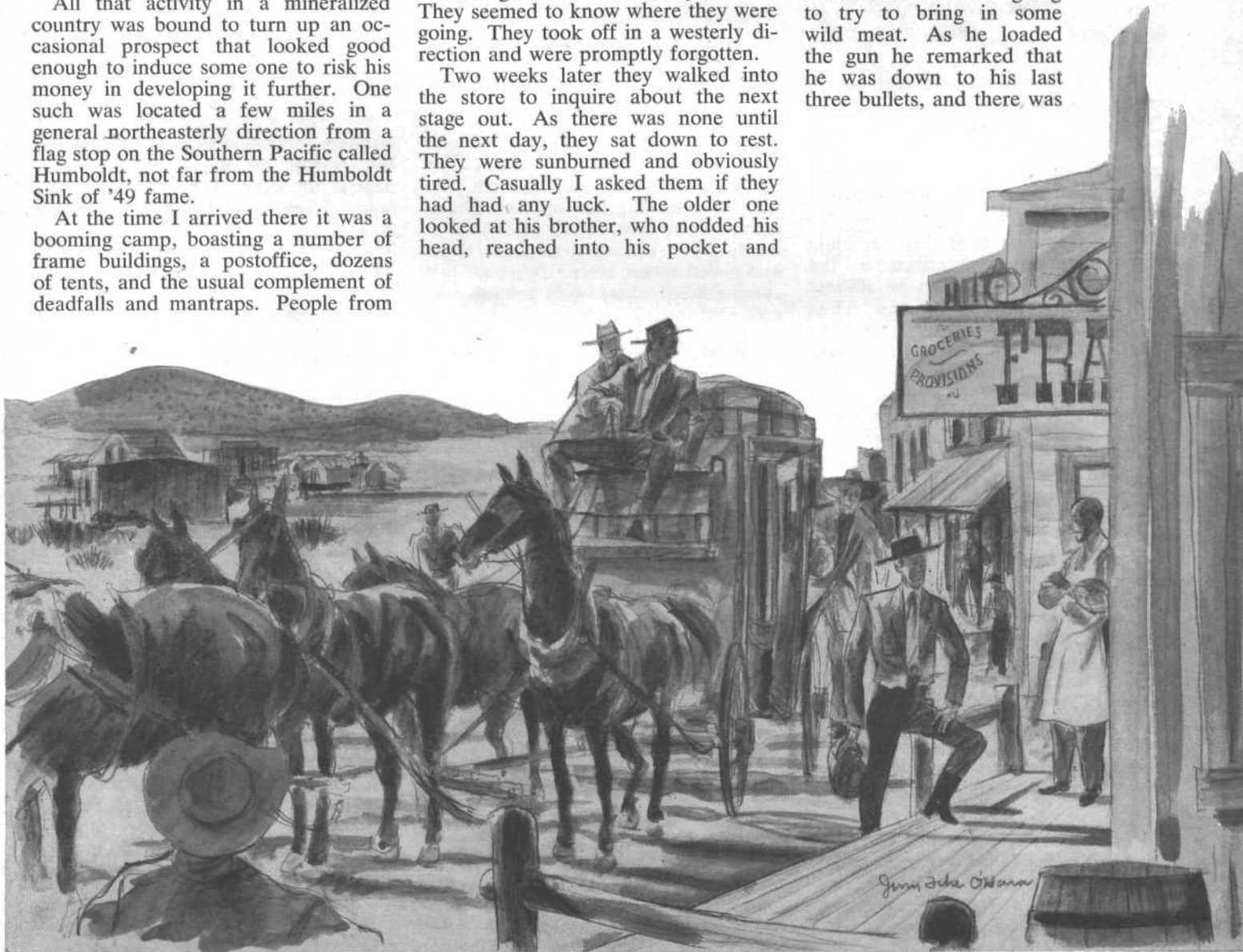
Two weeks later they walked into the store to inquire about the next stage out. As there was none until the next day, they sat down to rest. They were sunburned and obviously tired. Casually I asked them if they had had any luck. The older one looked at his brother, who nodded his head, reached into his pocket and

"I met these young men 40 years ago, as related in this report, and I believe the story they told is absolutely true," writes L. W. Morgan to *Desert Magazine*. "I have never heard of anyone finding this mine, or even looking for it. Perhaps if the story is published in *Desert*, it will lead to the rediscovery of the rich ledge. I hope so, for I am too old to look for it."

handed me a chunk of ore about the size of an egg, asking me if I had ever seen anything like it. I told him that I had, but not in that part of the state. I volunteered the opinion that it was very rich in silver. Then they told me as much of the story as they considered wise to disclose.

In the early days of the California gold rush their grandparents had joined one of the larger wagon trains bound for San Francisco. When they arrived at the Humboldt Sink it was decided to lay over a day to let the stock graze.

Grandfather got out his rifle and announced he was going to try to bring in some wild meat. As he loaded the gun he remarked that he was down to his last three bullets, and there was



no lead to mould more of them. He took off to the east and hunted for several hours with no luck, but he did come across an outcrop of what he believed was lead ore. He knocked off several pounds of it and brought it back to camp where he threw it into a small bucket in the back of his wagon.

The ore samples remained in the bucket until the family reached San Francisco. The largest piece of ore was used as a door stop for many years. Then a visitor who was a mining man happened to see it and asked where it came from. When told the story he advised that it be assayed. The assay report, according to the young men, showed high values in lead and silver.

The tenderfeet had papers left by the grandfather when he passed on. Among them was his journal of the trip across the continent. In it they found mention of his ore discovery, and enough information as to where he found it to justify a search for it. They had come to the new camp to spend their vacation trying to locate the ledge described by their grandfather so many years ago.

When they had finished their story, one of them handed me another piece of ore without comment. I looked it over, compared it with the first one, and remarked that it was a part of that same piece. They agreed and then told me how they found it.

They had spent their time rambling over the country described in the grandfather's journal, with no success until their grub was about gone. Then on their last day they came upon an old, old camp. There were rusty picks and shovels lying around, dishes and cooking utensils, and various other plunder. At a small level spot where a tent evidently had once stood they found this ore sample. I might mention here that neither of these pieces of ore could have been float.

Seeing nothing more to interest them, the boys came on in. I suggested that it might be worth while to put in some time prospecting in the vicinity of that old camp, but they could not spare the time. They both had good jobs in San Francisco and must return there at once. They did not offer definite information, nor did I ask for any. They took the next stage out, and that was the last I ever heard of them—or the mine. I suppose they hoped to be able to come back some time and look some more.

I am convinced that ore came from a ledge which has not yet been staked out—that somewhere out on the Nevada desert is a rich lead and silver ore deposit awaiting rediscovery by a lucky prospector.

Sequel to Ghost Mountain . . .

For more than eight years, Marshal and Tanya South were regular contributors to Desert Magazine. Marshal wrote each month the story of their primitive mode of life in a little adobe cabin on isolated Ghost Mountain in San Diego county, California. Tanya wrote poetry. During their 14-year residence on the mountain three children were born—Rider, Rudyard and Victoria.

Then in January, 1947, came the disillusioning news that the Souths had separated—that the Ghost mountain experiment in primitive living had come to an end. Desert continued to publish Tanya's poetry, and Marshal contributed at intervals until his death in October, 1948.

During their long sojourn on the mountain, many friends who became interested in the Souths through Desert Magazine, were concerned about the children. They wondered if Rider, Rudyard and Victoria, taught only by their mother and living apart from other humans, would later be able to adjust themselves to the complexities of the outside world.

Two years have passed since Tanya and the children moved to San Diego to establish a new home—and now that question of adjustment can be answered. Desert's editor recently asked Tanya about their life and progress in the big city. Here is her answer:

By TANYA SOUTH

Late yesterday afternoon Victoria came running breathless to say that Rudyard had been beset by three boys who were beating him up, and threatening to rob him of his prized lawnmowing job. In instant response Rider and I fled to his rescue. We met him coming home alone, with a smug little grin.

"What happened?"

"N-nothing."

It took much persuasion to make him tell. "Well, after I knocked two of them down, the third boy turned chicken."

Do you think Rudyard can manage to tote along in this civilization? I do! He is brilliant! Eleven last Christmas, he has three major subjects above grade in his sixth grade report. He reads voraciously of adult works—never fiction, unless that has a direct, informative bearing on his absorbing specialties, engines and airplanes. At that he gladly leaves his reading for a game of baseball. He pridefully retained his title as captain of the school baseball team for a long time. He is nurse monitor and sells the Los Angeles Sunday Times every Saturday morning. You'd love him!

You'd love them all! You'd never recognize our flame-topped Rider! The boy has shot up, and I know many a man of smaller stature. He is his mother's great pride, a freshman at high school, and we celebrated his fifteenth

birthday recently. He has given up the Boy Scouts, for he is mature, impatient of the slow passage of time. Life holds bright vistas for him, if his dreams become realities. However, he is doing well at school. The teachers, during "open house" assure me he is a fine student and good boy. They like him. He has definite ideas regarding a livelihood, but they are original, I cannot reveal them.

Victoria is beautiful! Her reports deserve framing! She does everything excellently! She is shy, reserved, a lady!—class secretary and head of the "Lost and Found." She too is above grade in reading, for she is constantly reading library books. She is eight now, in the third grade, and has learned to ride a bicycle. She still plays chess, monopoly or cards, while listening to the radio. Her furious skating has given place to jumping the rope.

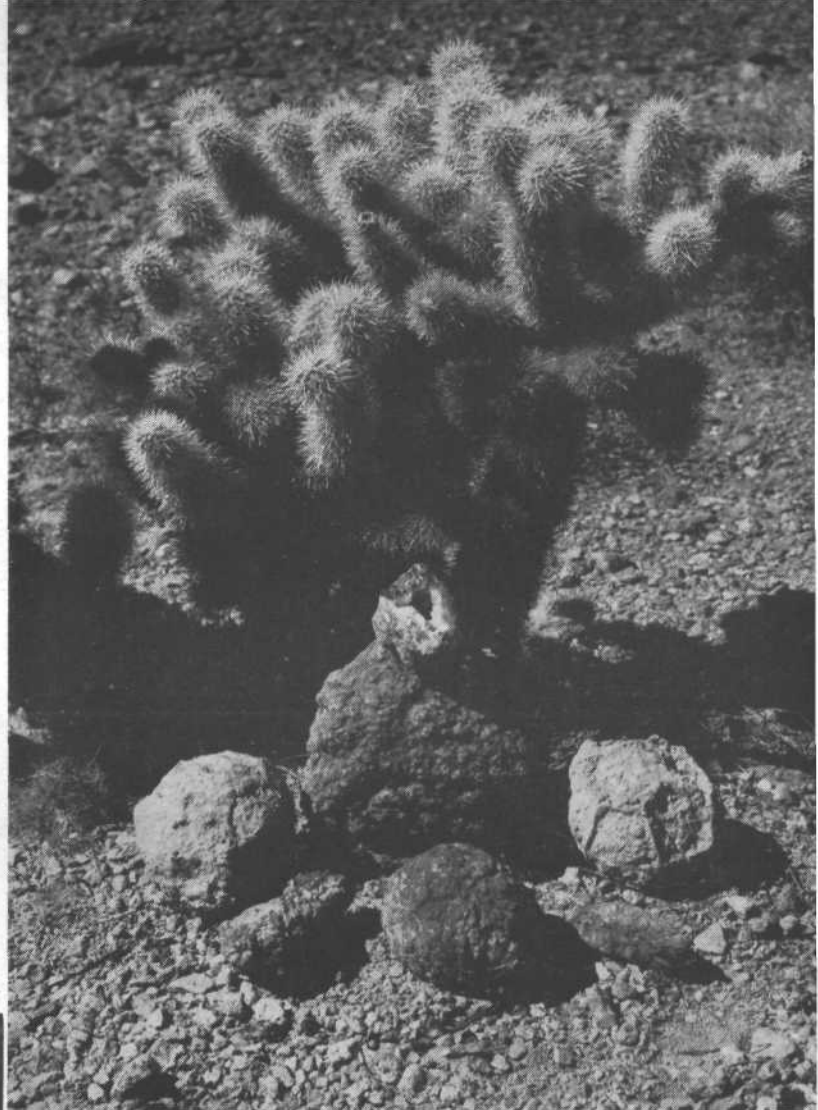
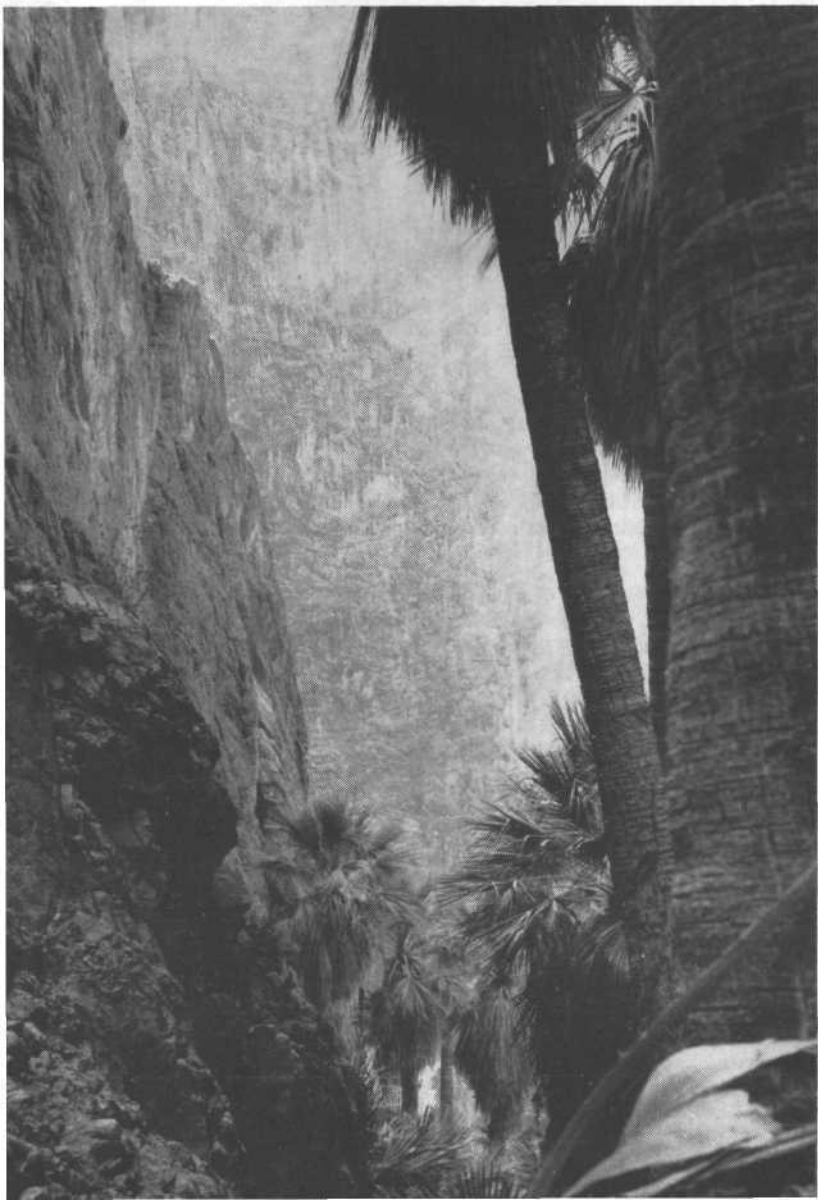
We have pleasant comfort in a light, airy four-room apartment on the summit of a steep hill. Our pooch, the frisky Ginger, is a definite personality in our household, and the four large tortoises are now waking up from their long sleep. I passed a Civil Service examination. To-date I am tapping typewriter keys. God has been very bountiful with love and mercy, and the fruits thereof.

Adois, good friends, and warmest regards!

The great Kofa massif whose perpendicular walls rise above the saguaro-strewn desert plain between Yuma and Quartzsite, Arizona, is well known for its native palm canyon. It remained for Bill Keiser, veteran mining man of Quartzsite to discover that there is also a promising geode field in this area. Harold and Lucile Weight followed Bill's directions—and here is the story of what they found.

Geodes and Palms in the Kofa Country

In a little side canyon so narrow it is not much more than a wide crevice in the cliff walls is the only group of native Washingtonia palms to be found in Arizona.



Typical geodes of the Kofa field and the pale gold cholla, prominent in the vegetation of the area. The largest geode is about one foot across.

By HAROLD O. WEIGHT

ACROSS the back wall of his museum of mineral specimens and relics at Quartzsite, Bill Keiser has painted a huge map of the surrounding Arizona desert areas. Bill doesn't need the map himself. The roads, trails and peaks of that section are etched in his memory from half a century of traveling along, over and through them.

But he wanted to indicate to us the general location of a geode field he had found near the Kofa mountains, 20 miles to the south. He warned us that we might have trouble in finding the exact spot, and Lucile and I knew what to expect. These old-timers who know the desert by heart have their own landmarks and their own means of identifying localities. They seldom check mileages. They know where they are going and they know when they arrive.

Frequently directions from one of them will run something like this: "You go down the road maybe five-ten miles to the big cactus with the crooked limb. Turn left maybe two-three miles to where it branches by the big rock. Take the main traveled branch and drive 15 minutes to the old palo verde. Head left . . ." and so on. It is fun to try to follow such instructions, if you have lots of time. And if you can decipher the instructions, you eventually will arrive at the spot the old-timer had in mind, and it will be exactly as described.

But Bill's directions, after he pointed out the spot on his map, were much more definite. Take Highway 95



William G. Keiser points out the approximate location of the Kofa area geode field on the huge map he has painted on the rear wall of his mineral and historical museum at Quartzsite, Arizona.

south about 18 miles and turn left at the Palm Canyon sign, following a graded road that goes eight or ten miles to the palms. About five miles out you reach a crossroad, the old road which leads to the King of Arizona mine. Turn right on this road and follow it until you come to a hill that is so badly washed nobody attempts to go across it nowadays. At this point, a little hill can be seen back to the left. On the hill you can find many small geodes scattered on the surface, and about a foot down you can dig out bigger ones.

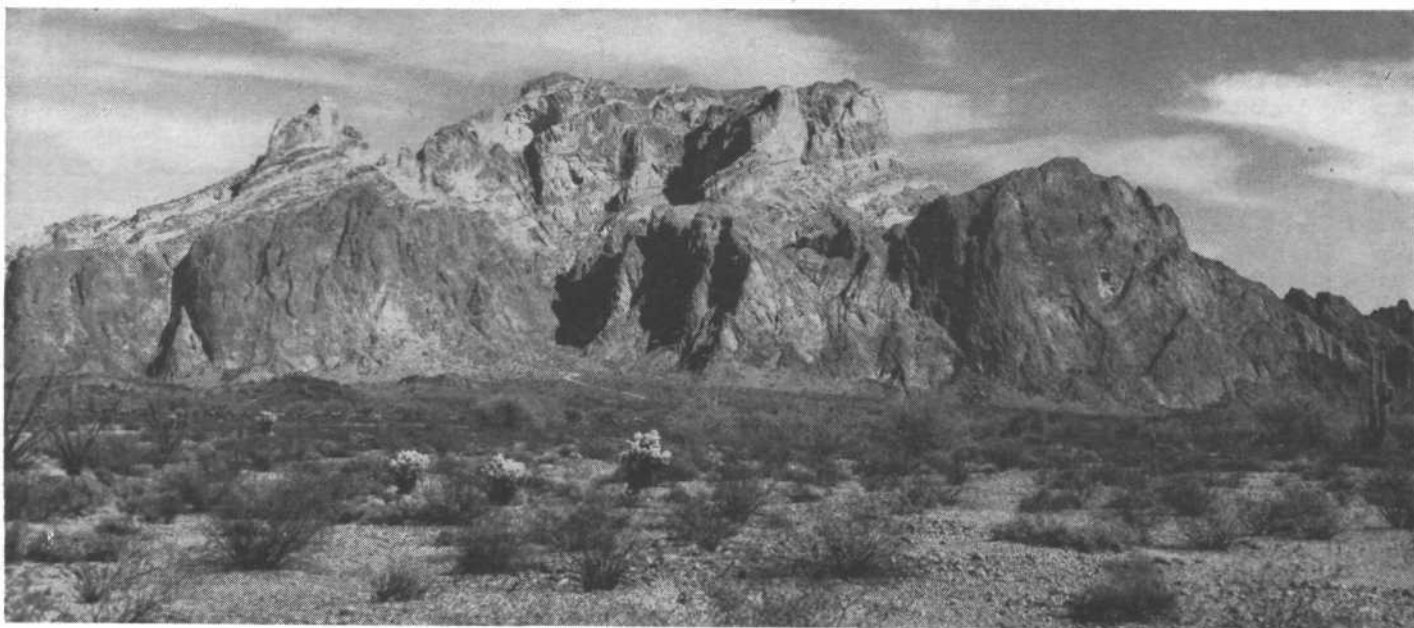
Bill showed us a pile of the geodes on the floor of the museum. They ranged from the size of a quarter to nearly a foot across. The centers of the broken ones seemed to be of white botryoidal chalcedony or of quartz crystals. The matrix, silicified enough to polish well, was grey with faint overtones of lavender in some. Later I found that the chalcedony in the interiors of most of the geodes would fluoresce a pale green, while spots of mineral included in the shells of some would show an intense green under the ultra-violet.

William G. (Bill) Keiser has been interested in and connected with prospecting and mining most of his life. He came originally from the heart of the anthracite mining

country near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. He came by sea to San Diego in 1896, and the next few years found him working as a hard rock miner in the King of Arizona and North Star mines in the Kofas, and in the Golden Cross at Tumco in the Cargo Muchacho mountains of California.

He decided to try his hand at farming, and without considering the whims of the Colorado river, took up land near Ehrenberg. In 1902, the moody river's uncontrolled flood waters washed his farm away, and Bill moved to Quartzsite. In those days the little mining center was more than 100 miles from a railroad. Most of its supplies came up the Colorado by steamer. Bill prospected and mined and worked at various occupations through the years, but Quartzsite remained his headquarters.

He still lives in Quartzsite, and his old adobe home on the south side of the highway, a little more than a mile west of the junction of U. S. 60-70 with Highway 95, can be identified by its telegraph-telephone sign. In addition to maintaining a communications center, Bill is notary public, rents cabins, sells mining machinery and holds a number of mining claims. And somehow he still



Kofa massif. Road to Cliff canyon is shown climbing the bajada, center.

finds time and energy for occasional prospecting trips into the desert looking for that big strike which lies just over the hill.

Bill knows the old towns and mines and camps that surround him. He has watched some of them go into oblivion. Ehrenberg now shows only adobe walls by the Colorado, and La Paz is "a heap of dirt among the trees." And Bill has traced out pioneer roads and trails and has found the sites of emigrant camps. His museum, across the road from his home, is the result of his wanderings, and in it are many things which would have weathered or rusted away, or have been carried into the Colorado by flash floods if Bill had not brought them in.

The museum has no regular hours, and it may be necessary to locate Bill Keiser to get inside. The contents aren't cased and classified as methodically as those in some institutions. But you will find there a fascinating aggregation of rocks and ores and relics; emigrant lanterns, ox-shoes made of leather, gold pans, picks—

forgotten and obsolete paraphernalia of mining and travel.

In his wanderings, Bill has come to know most of the rocks in his bailiwick by their first names and has a nodding acquaintance with the rest. That is why we went to see him when seeking a collecting area with rocks enough to warrant mapping for rockhounds. Bill had several possibilities in mind. But when he mentioned the geodes near the Kofas, our destination was settled. The Kofa mountains, in addition to being one of the most spectacular mountain massifs in Arizona, contain the only known native palms known to exist in Arizona (*Desert*, Dec. '41). A hike up sheer-walled Cliff canyon to the palms in their narrow cleft is a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

We checked the mileage at the intersection of 60-70 with Highway 95. There was a time when the word highway applied to the stretch of dust and ripples between Quartzsite and Yuma was a poor joke, and motorists traveling along it left plumes of dust which matched the sky trails

Geode field, photographed from the Palm canyon road. The geodes lie along the top of the ridge above the dark shadow, center of picture, and in the saddle immediately to the right of the shadow.



of present-day jet fighters. Nevertheless, the forests of saguaro and the vivid desert mountains along this route have made it one of my favorite roads. And the Arizona highway department has nibbled consistently at the road until finally, according to report, contract for paving the last section has been let.

The stretch from Quartzsite to Kofa Palm canyon has enough of a coating now to make it relatively good going. And the turnoff to the canyon, which we reached at 19.2 miles is marked with substantial and readable highway signs. Turning east on this county-bladed road, the going was good for .7 of a mile. Then the trail almost vanished where it crossed the right-of-way of the gas line built from the Big Inch to Yuma. Beyond the shredded area, we picked up the Kofa road again and followed it without difficulty.

At 22.4 miles a sign at the edge of the road told us we were entering the Kofa game refuge, established primarily for the protection of bighorn sheep, native to the area. The ruts of the old King of Arizona mine road branched right at 22.7 miles, with a pile of rocks in the Y to mark it. We left the bladed road, which continues to the mouth of Cliff canyon, and followed the ruts to the right.

The old road dipped up and down so frequently we developed what Lucile called "vertical dizziness." And that was not surprising. Long years have passed since supplies were hauled along this road from Quartzsite to the King of Arizona and North Star mines, and erosion had been busy. The King of Arizona, by whose abbreviated form, Kofa, the mountains are known today, was discovered in the winter of 1896 by Charles E. Eichelberger at the southwest edge of the range. The North Star, near the Kofa, was not found until 1906, with Felix Mayhew the discoverer. Production of the Kofa, before the ore reached an unprofitable value, was \$3,500,000, while the North Star paid \$1,100,000.

Along the mine road, we entered a beautiful park-like area. Saguaro, ocotillo, palo verde and creosote dominated the vegetation. It was October, but there had been a recent rain, and the ocotillo were in full, green leaf and some of the creosotes were blooming. Chuckawalla's delight showed orange flowers, too, and tiny gold daisies were scattered over the rocky soil almost everywhere. "It looks as if some gnome-pro prospector had spilled his ore-sack," Lucile declared.

Along the washes the leathery-leaved goatnuts were turning a dark gold, and over the flats there was a profusion of cactus: ramosissima,

LOG

- 00.0 Junction U. S. 60-70 with Highway 95 at Quartzsite, Arizona. Turn south on 95 toward Yuma.
- 19.2 Highway signs marked "Palm Canyon 9 Miles" and bladed dirt road. Turn left, east, on dirt road toward Kofa mountains.
- 19.9 Cross right of way of Yuma gas line. Road badly torn up. Continue straight ahead, east.
- 20.3 Sign, "Kofa Queen, 12 Miles," and road ruts, left. Keep ahead on main road.
- 22.4 Enter Kofa game refuge.
- 22.7 Old King of Arizona mine road branches right, with rock marker in Y. Keep ahead on main road.
- 24.2 Old road crosses main bladed road. Keep ahead on main road.
- 24.6 Campsite. Geode bed lies in saddle approx. 1/2 mile southwest of camp. Wash and saddle may be identified by large, many-branched saguaro on reddish outcrop at the base of wash and to the right of it.
- 26.3 End of Road at mouth of Cliff canyon.

beavertail, echinocereus and vast numbers of pale gold chollas.

After a dippy two miles we reached a point where the old road ruts became erosion-cut channels and sloughed off into a barranca. I stopped the car. Was this the spot Bill Keiser had meant when he told us of the wash where he had stopped? Obviously it had not been crossed for a long time, and the eroded pitch of the far bank looked as if it might make trouble. If this were the landmark on Bill's oral map, we should be able to see the light-colored hill to our left.

Lucile and I surveyed the vivid, jagged, saguaro-strewn desert. Hills there were in plenty, but none we could classify as definitely light-colored. And the one back to our left was a mixture of black lava overlay with red and lighter-colored rock beneath. We studied the wash. There seemed only one way of determining whether this was the end of navigation. I put the car into compound low. Moving at a snail's pace, it teetered, muttered, slid and scrabbled. But it clawed its way up the bank and we kept going along the old ruts.

We kept going, in fact, until we had passed completely through the cluster of little hills and found we were on the edge of the open valley between the Kofas and the Castle Dome mountains. Obviously we had missed the geode location. Bill had stressed the bad spot in the road so thoroughly that we had concentrated upon finding it. Probably Bill hadn't tried the route with four-wheel drive. There were many washes in that five

miles of up and down I would have hesitated to attempt with a conventional car.

Sundown was near as we turned back along the old road. On the way in, we had noticed chalcedony float in several washes, and now we wanted to check them. Several showed real promise—chalcedony roses and bits of geode. But as we prospected them we failed to find material in any quantity or to reach its source, and left them for more detailed exploration later.

As we worked up one of the little valleys I heard Lucile, across the narrow wash, talking very earnestly with someone. Investigating, I found she had come upon an ancient desert tortoise and was attempting to strike up an acquaintance. They had, as she put it, "met head-on, and neither was retreating." I left them eyeing each other steadily. The results of her overtures, she reported later, were negative.

"All the time I was there, he didn't move any more than the rocks around him. He just kept looking, and wouldn't even duck." Perhaps, in his slow way, he was trying to think up a conversational topic of mutual interest. Or he may have felt that if he pretended to be a rock she would go away and leave him alone.

My encounters with these real old-timers of the desert are not as frequent as they once were. So far this year I have seen only two. I hope this is a sign that the tortoise is learning to keep out of sight of humans rather than that he is losing ground before their assaults. These harmless creatures are protected by law in many places, and desert-lovers should work to see these laws expanded and enforced.

I haven't been able to figure out what possible satisfaction even the most stupid person can find in destroying the helpless, peaceful tortoise. It must be the expression of a crippled or distorted ego unable to find satisfaction in normal contacts and activities, bolstering itself by the poor victory of snuffing out weaker life.

Darkness had fallen before we reached the junction with the Kofa Palm canyon road again, and we had not found the geode field. But we were grateful that Bill Keiser either had underestimated our car's stubbornness or had overestimated our common sense. The journey along that half-forgotten mine road with towering saguaro and picturesque buttes forming an ever-changing foreground for the breath-taking cliffs of the Kofa massif now is safely tucked away among our most treasured memories of the Arizona desert.

And the flaming sunset through

which we returned surely must have been posing for a color transparency. Its glowing color tinted our faces and clothing and seemed to turn pink the air we breathed. I had no unexposed color film in my holders. But Lucile just shrugged her shoulders. "No one would believe it, anyway," she said.

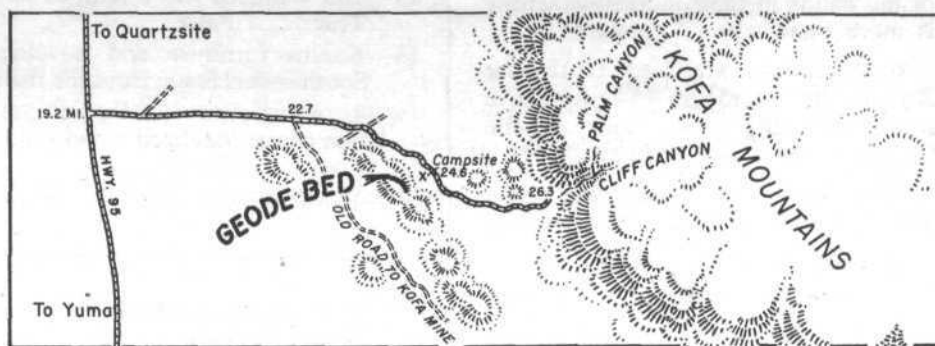
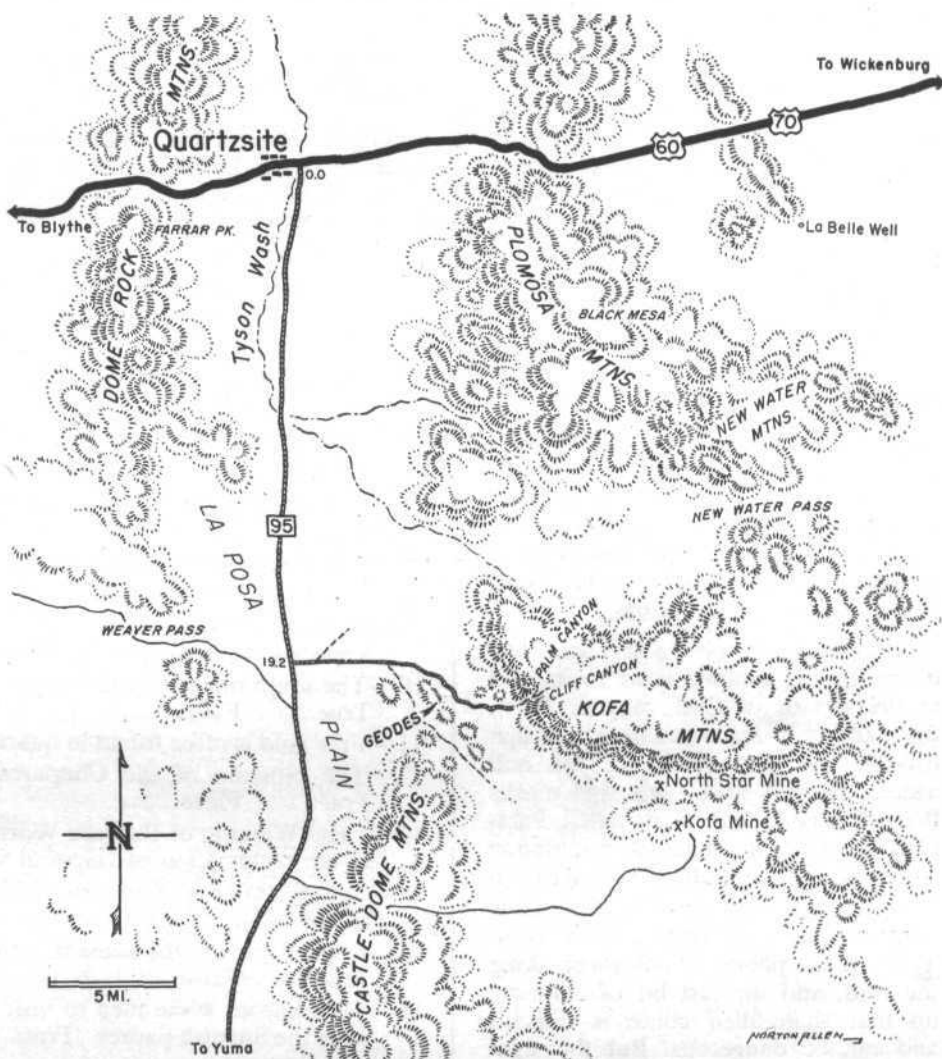
We drove up the Palm canyon road a short distance in the darkness, then pulled out on a natural rock pavement to camp. With the car lights out, the moon was so bright that all the activities of preparing supper and making camp could be carried on without need of flashlight or lantern.

The temperature was perfect for sleeping, but we hated to close our eyes and miss the changing vignettes which moon and clouds and cliffs and the wild, harsh vegetation made. I woke several times during the night as the moon drifted across the sky and the moving pattern of light and shadow painted new pictures. In the sea of silence, I heard the rustling movements of small night creatures, and the morose, hoarse questioning of an owl came clearly from some black canyon of the Kofas.

In the morning, high plumes of cirrus rocketing above the Kofa cliffs demanded photographing. We hiked across the fields of tiny yellow daisies in search of photogenic saguaros for the foreground. If mountain ranges were entered in beauty contests, I think the Kofas would receive my vote. The bulk of the mountain, one great block which rises 2500 feet above the surrounding plain, is made up largely of lava flows, according to Eldred D. Wilson in *Geology and Mineral Deposits of Southern Yuma County, Arizona*, published by the University of Arizona for the Arizona Bureau of Mines. Andesites and rhyolites are prominent and basalt flows 300 feet thick in spots cap the tops. Most of the flows are level, but on some of the peaks, the beds of light tuff dip steeply and, sandwiched between darker layers of rock, add to the spectacular effect.

As we returned from our picture taking, Lucile called my attention to a low northwest-southeast range, nearly covered with black lava, which lay about half a mile from our campsite and between the camp and the old mine road we had followed the day before. The range was made up of five definite peaks, and on the lower slopes of the second peak from the southern end were some large, shining objects which looked as if they might be wreckage from a plane.

When we reached the shining ob-



jects, they proved to be great, flat varnished lava rocks. But in the wash to the right of them and the lower slopes we found chalcedony and agate. Much of it was too grainy to be first class polishing rock. But there were good pieces and a few nice roses and crystal vugs.

Climbing the pass toward the saddle, I found a broken geode lined with small quartz crystals. I took to the left side slope and found more fragments, then complete geodes in place. Along the ridge, many lay exposed on the surface. I worked along the ridge into

the saddle and found more geodes of odd, distorted shapes among the chollas there. To the north of the saddle was a small excavation where someone had been digging specimens. Looking southwest, I saw the valley with the old King of Arizona mine road. Without doubt we had stumbled upon Bill Keiser's geode bed from the side opposite the one by which he had come.

It is not a large field, but there are many geodes on the surface and it appears that many more can be dug out easily. The geology of the coun-

try and the float along the Kofa mine road indicate that more collecting areas remain to be found. And since the interiors of the geodes show little variety, giving no incentive for quantity collectors, the supply should last a long time. Half a dozen specimens will make a real addition to any rockhound's geode collection. But half a hundred would be monotonous, since the centers all seem to be of colorless botryoidal chalcedony, quartz crystals, or a combination of the two.

It also should be understood that there are many duds in this field—specimens with the correct outer appearance but which have no centers or very small ones. But it is fairly easy to discard these, since those with large hollows feel light for their size. And when many of the hollow ones are shaken, loose bits may be heard rattling about on the inside.

After leaving the geode field, we drove up the scraped road to its end at the mouth of Cliff canyon. From the parking space a small white sign can be seen far up the canyon and against the left wall. This sign marks the entrance to the cleft called Palm canyon. After an hour of scrambling and puffing, we pulled ourselves up to an unobstructed view of the narrow gorge and its great palms. There is no water at the palms or anywhere along the trail, and the last bit of climbing up that shale-filled chute is difficult and can be dangerous. But the sight of the palms in their incredible setting is more than sufficient reward.

We made our way back to the car late in the afternoon. As we drove down past the geode hills, Lucile looked at them thoughtfully.

"You know," she said, "when you write this story I'll have a note to add.

And here is Lucile's note:

"How to Behave Around a Cholla.

"When you see rocks or crystals sparkling under chollas, remember to be polite, not greedy. Better rake them out or handle them very gingerly or those specially constructed cholla spines will puncture your elation. Be specially careful where you set your collecting bag down, or some of the spines will attach themselves to it, and transfer to you with eager enthusiasm when you swing the bag over your shoulder or alongside. And everyone should know that it is not courteous to sit down in the presence of a cholla cactus without making certain that one of its innumerable joints isn't already sitting there."

Rockhunters please note!

TRUE OR FALSE

Here's another test for those who pride themselves in their knowledge of the desert country—or for those who are seeking a more intimate acquaintance with the history, geography, botany, mineralogy and Indian life of the Southwest. There's a liberal education in these monthly quiz tests published by Desert Magazine. A fair score is 12 to 15, a good score 15 to 17, and 18 or over is superior. The correct answers are on page 36.

- 1—The Great Salt Lake is larger than Salton Sea. True..... False.....
- 2—Wild turkeys are still to be seen in some parts of the Southwest. True..... False.....
- 3—The whiteness of the White Sands national monument in New Mexico is due to the presence of grains of quartz. True..... False.....
- 4—The Apache rebel, Geronimo was killed in battle. True..... False.....
- 5—Highway 66 crosses the Colorado river at Topoc. True..... False.....
- 6—Certain species of desert birds build their nests in Cholla cactus. True..... False.....
- 7—The capital of Nevada is Reno. True..... False.....
- 8—The Great White Throne is in Zion national park. True..... False.....
- 9—Most of the dates grown in Coachella valley, California come from a species of palm known as *Washingtonia filifera*. True..... False.....
- 10—The south rim of Grand Canyon is higher than the north rim. True..... False.....
- 11—Free gold is often found in quartz. True..... False.....
- 12—The blossom of the Chuparosa or Hummingbird plant is yellow. True..... False.....
- 13—"The Winning of Barbara Worth" by Harold Bell Wright is the story of the reclamation of Imperial valley. True..... False.....
- 14—Sunset crater in northern Arizona is believed to have been caused by the falling of a giant meteor. True..... False.....
- 15—Capt. Palm was the name of a famous Yuma Indian chief. True..... False.....
- 16—First known white men to visit the Carlsbad caverns in New Mexico were the Spanish padres. True..... False.....
- 17—Bill Williams was a famous steamboat captain on the Colorado river. True..... False.....
- 18—Cactus furniture and novelties made by many craftsmen in the Southwest is made from the dead stalks of Ocotillo. True..... False.....
- 19—Ultra-violet rays of the sun are believed to have caused the petrification of the fossilized wood found so widely over the Southwest. True..... False.....
- 20—Pyramid lake is in Utah. True..... False.....

NAVAJO TRADING POSTS HAVE EXPANDED SINCE 1876

According to Frank Waters, Taos writer, the first trading post devoted primarily to the Navajo trade was established at Lee's Ferry, where Mormon horses and Navajo blankets were exchanged. John D. Lee, a Mormon, founded the post.

In 1876 there was but one licensed trader on the Navajo reservation—Thomas V. Keam, a former government interpreter. In 1890 S. E. Aldrich established a post at Round Rock on Lukachukai creek and took for his partner the Navajo chief, Chee Dodge. At that time there were nine traders on the reservation and 30 trading posts surrounding it. The main article of

trade was Navajo blankets. Apaches, Utes, and Piutes preferred them to the blankets issued by the government. Mexicans used them for sarapes and ponchos, and American cowboys and settlers liked them for bed blankets, saddle blankets and lap robes. The trade grew until in 1940 there were 146 trading posts operating under government control. During the early years of growth Congress refused to authorize the marking of all authentic Indian goods for their protection against imitation and unfair competition but the traders persuaded the weavers to copy old classical "Moqui" patterns and to shun cheap aniline dyes, synthetic designs, and cotton warp.

IF YOU COULD SPEAK

By MARY COX
Long Beach, California

Oh desert sands, wind-swept, sun-drenched
Far reaching as the mind's imaginings
If you could speak to tell the tales of man
and beast

In all the weariness of mortal stumbling
Would the fabric of those unknown lives
Reveal progression's gain or retrogression's
toll?

Oh ageless wastes and desert sweeps,
If you could utter truth compelling,
Would you unfold a saga bold of civiliza-
tion's chase

For gold that spells eternal ruin?
Or of that ceaseless, timeless struggle
Would you recount man's triumphant mas-
tery of hate and sin and death?

Or perchance, would you relate a chronicle
of life's

Unquenchable demand for love and beauty,
The one, though veiled, attainable, serene
The other one apparent, disconcerting
Without both of which man's grasp upon
himself is lost

He staggers backward blindly selfish, fear-
ful tossed?

Oh ancient sands, forever silent, give up thy
secrets

Long withheld and buried deep with foot-
falls of courageous wanderers

Proclaim! Oh testify! Assure a doubting
world at last

That even now right yet is might, and good
lives on

In spite of man or beast or war, to prove
eternity!

• • •

AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING

By RUTH A. VETTER
Los Angeles 6, California

The desert weaves a spell —
Who can resist
Its tawny vistas,
Purpled in a morning mist?

At noon — a burnished, golden bowl,
Flung to the far horizons, waits
To catch long shadows as
The sun grows cold.

At night — unless the moon is full,
The sky is black as darkest velvet.
A soft wind stirs the stars about,
And when a few come tumbling out,
The highest mountain, looking up,
Holds aloft a silver cup
And tries to capture even one,
To wear it as her diadem.

• • •

DUSK IN THE CANYON

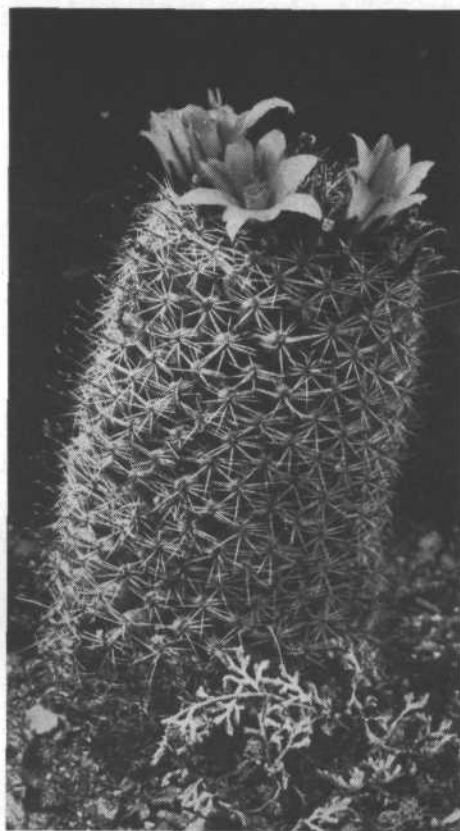
By MRS. MABEL COOPER
Clifton, Colorado

The moon rides high in the twilight sky
O'er the rim of the canyon wall;
Its silver beams through the gray dusk
gleams,
And the night birds softly call.

Coyotes croon to that silver moon,
And the heart within me sings
To the rhythmic beat of my pony's feet,
Like a flutter of silken wings.

The soft winds sigh as they pass me by,
And they carry a perfume sweet
Of mesquite bush and the painted cup
That are bruised by his pounding feet.

The trail leads on, and I lope along
Unmindful of fret or care.
The moon climbs up to meet the dawn,
And a new day bright and fair.



BISNAGA
Photograph by George Ollin

Consolation

By LILLIAN J. CURTIS
Phoenix, Arizona

Oh garlands of ivory, and vivid reds
Blooming in cacti on desert lands,
Oh satin blossoms in your spiny beds
Kept safe from the touch of human hands.

Oh shining cups of burnished gold
Peeping from wicked, prickly pear,
Oh bells of orchid, please unfold
If only to offer a challenging dare.

Oh gorgeous flowers, so lowly born
Would that I might give you, your place.
Oh flowers of sand, or parents of thorn
To you, Mother Nature has given her
grace.

• • •

THE PROTECTOR

By KATHLEEN ASHTON
Laguna Beach, California

Careless with my human power,
I trod upon a desert flower.
"Idiot!" said the Joshua tree,
"Would that you had stepped on me!"

• • •

Glad Choice

By TANYA SOUTH
San Diego 10, California

I walk the good earth glad of heart
That I can play an upright part
In life's affairs. That I can dare
For righteousness, and forward fare.
And that upon my soul will rest
The choice of giving all my best
To any phase of destiny
Life may decree.

QUEST: SOUTHWEST

By JUNE HOWARD WILSON
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

I have been happy in the wind's low song
Crooning to scrubby cedars on a hill;
I have been glad when winter nights were
long
And pinyon fires dispelled the desert chill.

I have been wakeful in the prairie night,
Little and lonely, there beneath the sky,
And slept again, and awakened with delight,
Hearing the meadowlark's ecstatic cry.

I have pursued the restless tumbleweeds
And basked in color at a canyon's rim;
I have been awed by tales of daring deeds,
Loved the old narrator, and envied him.

I have seen pride and challenge in the eyes
Of Navajo and Creek and Cherokee;
I have stood still and watched an eagle rise
And circle in the sun, aloof and free.

I have been spellbound by the shifting sand
In this unpeopled and enchanted place;
I have been happy, for in this wide land
I know that I have looked upon God's face.

• • •

DESERT AT NIGHT

By KATHARINE BUOY
Portland, Oregon

Strange forms stand motionless within the
dusk,
Arms lifting toward the midnight sky;
Born of desert solitudes they wait in silence,
patiently,

For answer to their prayers.
The new moon's sickle gleams amid the field
of stars

So thickly strewn across the heavens' blue.
A star falls earthward, clipped from the
starry sheaf

By Luna's bright, curved blade . . .

A faroff wail comes from a speeding train;
Almost inaudibly a faint chirp sounds
As some small bird moves sleepily;
A slithering movement stirs the desert sands;
A pale glow rims the hills that wall the
desert floor . . .
Slowly the desert wakes.

• • •

DESERT SILENCE

By KATHERINE G. FENTON
Elsinore, California

Where are the little voices
Of grasshopper, cricket or bird?
In this strange aromatic expanse
There's a silence that asks to be heard.

The fantastic jumbles of rocks
Like creatures defying a name,
Have crouched so long in the silence
They've forgotten themselves how they
came.

A tree points a weird hairy arm
To a peak with a snow-field a-glisten.
And time stands still in the silence—
A silence that speaks—and says "Listen!"

• • •

MOUNT SIGNAL

By RUBY KUNS SIMMONS
Sierra Madre, California

Monarch of mountains, majestic, grand,
Guarding an arid and thirsty land,
Silently watching from lofty heights
The antics of man, his plays, his fights,
Seeing the pages of history turn,
The scroll unroll,
The sands drift on
With no return.
Once the ancient Indian spoke
From thy summit words in smoke.
Now shining, flashing beacons light
The pilot on his trackless flight.
Thy giant-bouldered, granite crest
Looks down on wind and sand and stone,
And man, like thee, must stand alone.

DESERT CLOSE-UPS

When the editor sought Close-Up information about the author of "Desert Builder," the story of Donald Van-Camp in the current *Desert*, he discovered that "J. F." Davies was a woman. She explained: "In California, most editors seem to think women have 'feminine' subjects only—which has driven me to desperation." Joan was assured that *Desert* has no such prejudices. Joan Davies asked a managing editor for a job when she was 16 and he told her to find a feature story and write it. She got the job and did everything from interviewing a prize cow to covering a murder trial. Her biggest job was looking up talent, interviewing stars and writing the interviews into radio scripts for Columnist-Commentator Erskine Johnson when he had a five-day show schedule. She spends most of her time on the desert, and is writing a novel about it.

• • •

Chief interest among members of the prospecting fraternity now centers in the search for radioactive ores. To bring *Desert Magazine* readers up to date on this subject, the editors asked Walter Ford of Los Angeles to prepare the feature story which appears in this issue. Walter has had a good background for such an assignment. He is a teacher of electronics in the Los Angeles city schools, and also for the extension division of the University of California. In 1948 he was awarded the Laureate Citation by a national fraternity for achievement in the teaching field.

His hobby for 20 years has been exploration of the desert country, and many of his stories have appeared in *Desert Magazine*. He has a jeep equipped with two-way radio, and the rougher and wilder the terrain the better he likes it.

• • •

Thanks to the interest of Beula M. Wadsworth, the *Desert Magazine* this month is able to give long over-due recognition to the fine work Kenneth Chapman and his associates have been doing in the preservation of the art and ceramics of the Indian tribesmen of the Southwest.

Years of research and an intense interest in the subject went into the preparation of Miss Wadsworth's story. She began writing for magazines more than 25 years ago when she was city

schools art supervisor and normal art teacher in Michigan.

Later in Arizona since her retirement from teaching, the decorative pottery art of the Pueblo Indians in which she came into personal contact led her into research and writing on Indian source material as a basis of modern design in art education.

Through her writings Miss Wads-

worth became a member of The National League of American Pen Women, and is currently president of the Tucson Branch. She is author of two published brochures of poetry, "Rainbow Over the Year" and "Sun Shafts—Arizona in Verse".

In addition to writing a favorite hobby is painting the Arizona scene in oil and pastel.

In the first Easter pageant in 1946 Alex Hammond played the role of pilate, and Wynne Davis Hammond the part of Claudia.



Desert Pageantry at Easter

At Easter-time last year 5,000 people sat on the sandy floor of Box canyon, seven miles east of Mecca, and watched in awed silence as players on a natural stage in a great cleft in the canyon wall enacted the trial and conviction of Jesus Christ.

This year the fourth annual presentation will be given in the same setting under the sponsorship of the Mecca Civic Council. But this year—

to accommodate the increasing attendance—there will be two pageants, on Thursday and Friday nights, April 14 and 15.

The Mecca Easter Pageant, like the annual Desert Cavalcade in Calexico, California, is unique in that it is staged entirely by non-professional talent. Its players are recruited from the stores and ranches and homes of the Coachella valley.

The story, titled "The Master Passes By" was written by Helen Drusilla Bell, now of Indio, with a drama studio in Palm Springs. Cecelia Foulkes composed the music for which Mrs. Bell wrote the lyrics. The story is told, in natural simplicity, of a troubled day in the life of Pontius Pilate when he finds himself called upon to decide the fate of the Man who calls himself the "King of the Jews." He must decide whether Christ is to be freed of the charges against him, or crucified.

The indecision of Pilate and the pleas in behalf of Jesus made by Pilate's wife Claudia, as well as friends of the Master, furnish the highlights of the drama. Although Pilate actually is persuaded of the innocence of Jesus, he is too weak to assert his convictions. He is afraid of the powerful priests and scribes who are the accusers. In a speech in which he seeks to absolve himself from all responsibility, he tosses Christ's fate to the men in his court—and because they are more powerful than the simple friends of the Master, his doom is sealed.

The sponsors of this historical pageant have no ticket takers and collect no admissions. Motorists park their cars on the sandy floor of the canyon, and if the sand proves treacherous there is emergency equipment present to give aid. The spectators find seats on the sand facing the 150-foot niche in the sandstone walls where Nature has provided a perfect desert setting for such a drama. Those who have witnessed the spectacle before will have blankets and perhaps cushions for added comfort, and an extra wrap for the mild chill of April nights.

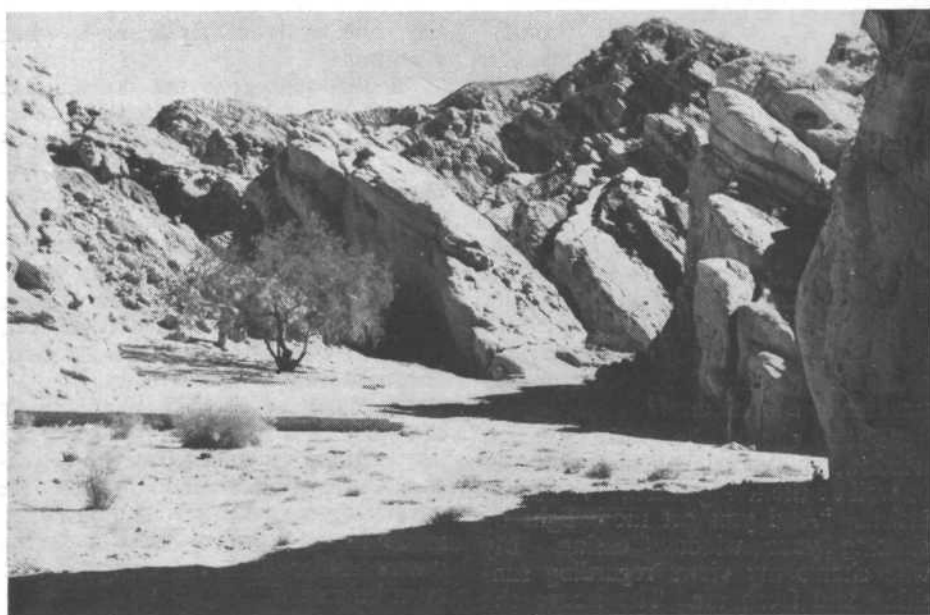
Spotlights, sound equipment, costumes and stage properties are all financed by popular subscription. The entire community prepares for the pageant for months in advance. It is because last year's 5,000 spectators was about the maximum number that could be accommodated in this outdoor theater, that the sponsors this season decided to give a double presentation, on successive nights.

The Coachella valley people who will have charge of this year's presentation are: Dr. Claire Johnson, general manager; Sylvia Dobbs, publicity; Bertha Young, director; D. B. W. Alexander, assistant director; Helen D. Bell, coach; O. J. Cochran and Lee Roark, technicians and electrical equipment; Joe Jacobs, ground; Lucile Alexander, costumes; Cecelia Foulkes, music.

The performances are at eight in the evening. Many of the visitors will bring their sleeping bags and camp in the sheltered nooks of the Box canyon area following the program.



Eve Bowlin as Claudia in 1948. Zelma Ballard, left, and I. V. Ballard, right, filled the roles of handmaidens.



In Box canyon seven miles east of Mecca, California, a natural stage setting was found in the sandstone cliffs.



Typical VanCamp desert home in miniature. As a boy, VanCamp built miniature theatre sets and carries his hobby into his present business.

Desert Builder

By JOAN F. DAVIES

"We don't come to the desert to shut ourselves away from the sun and fresh air and landscape," says Donald VanCamp. "We want our houses to include as much of them as possible." Out in Yucca valley, California, Donald is applying his ideas to construction that combines economy with some very novel ideas—ideas that will interest those who plan homes on the desert.

IN THE city, you build a house for shelter—but in the desert you build both for shelter and for the panorama beyond its windows." This is the theory of Donald VanCamp, designer-builder of Yucca valley, California.

"Look at this yard." He waved his arm at the plot of sand and brush. "If you had only this you would not like it. But look beyond—to the panorama, to San Geronio and the mountains falling away from its majestic peak, to the highlights and shadows of the ridges, to the Joshua trees and sage in the foreground, to the pastel coloring—and the space. That is the secret of desert building—space. You make windows to look out on space, not just a little patch of lawn and geraniums.

"We don't come to the desert to shut ourselves away from sun, fresh air and landscape. We want to build our houses to include as much of them as

possible. My own ideal desert home," he grins amiably, "would be built on a revolving stage—to catch whatever view you wished at the time of day when it has the most to offer—sunset while dining, moonrise while doing sketches, sunrise while shaving—you get the idea."

Yucca valley, with elevations ranging above 2000 feet, gives the designer somewhat more leeway in the matter of glass walls than does a lower elevation where summer dwellers prefer to reduce south and west window exposures to a minimum.

"There should be wide pleasant windows in the kitchen and bedroom as well as the living room," VanCamp insists. "And you get more light by slanting your window casing. My wife shares my views regarding sunshine and fresh air. The house she facetiously suggests would be mostly porches—a latticed porch, a glassed-in porch and an open porch—with a

tiny room in the center to run to when it storms.

"If you will keep the hot midday sun off the walls with adequate overhang, lattice-work or shade trees your house may have big windows and still remain moderately cool in the summer months. If overhang is impractical, the new insulated sash may be used for the large panes on the south and west." The designer refers to the double-pane sash with dead air space between two parallel sheets of glass which has been on the market in recent years.

The story of Donald VanCamp is the story of a man who has spent his life learning to understand people as well as learning to build houses. He never forgets that, after all, houses are made to be lived in—and it is the owner rather than the designer who must be served.

"Many of those who come to the desert are seeking inexpensive homes," he explains. "Actually a plain box

house is all many of them can afford. But I refuse to build those—I try to give a little character to a house.”

He has undertaken to erect one small home with a floor area of 520 square feet for \$3500. It is definitely more than a cabin. There is a large living room, a bedroom, bath, and kitchen. Closets are made by using wall space between rooms. The wall between the living room and kitchen is omitted. The rooms are small of course, but they are comfortable—and the house does not look like a box.

VanCamp is builder as well as designer, and he keeps costs low by using materials easiest to obtain on the market. He watches for special sales in building materials. When he heard some redwood was available at a bargain price he rushed out and bought it. He learned about it because he keeps alert for such opportunities.

Many of his customers want to help with their own homes—and that cuts down cost. He designed a home for his father which cost but \$4,000 because his father and a brother helped with the construction.

He gives much attention to ventilation and heating. “Protect the walls with an outspread roof,” he says. Concrete blocks are among the less expensive forms of wall construction—but the sun must be kept off of them with a wide overhang if they are to remain cool.”

VanCamp does not regard air-conditioning as essential at the higher elevations of the desert country. Generally there is a breeze blowing in from the mountains, and with proper cross-ventilation this will provide comfort without evaporative coolers. Natural air is more healthful than artificially cooled air, in the opinion of this designer, and this is especially true for people with respiratory ailments.

“Of course I am talking as a builder on the higher elevations. I’ve lived on the floor of the desert, and I well know the importance of cooled air on the lower levels. Another important thing is the planting of shrubbery in front of the windows to protect them against ground reflections.”

New insulation materials have greatly simplified the problems of keeping out heat and cold. Pumice, perlite, vermiculite, zomolite, rock wool, aluminum foil and many other materials are now available, and there should be insulation in both the side-walls and ceilings or roofs of all desert homes. They keep out the heat in summer, and the cold in winter.

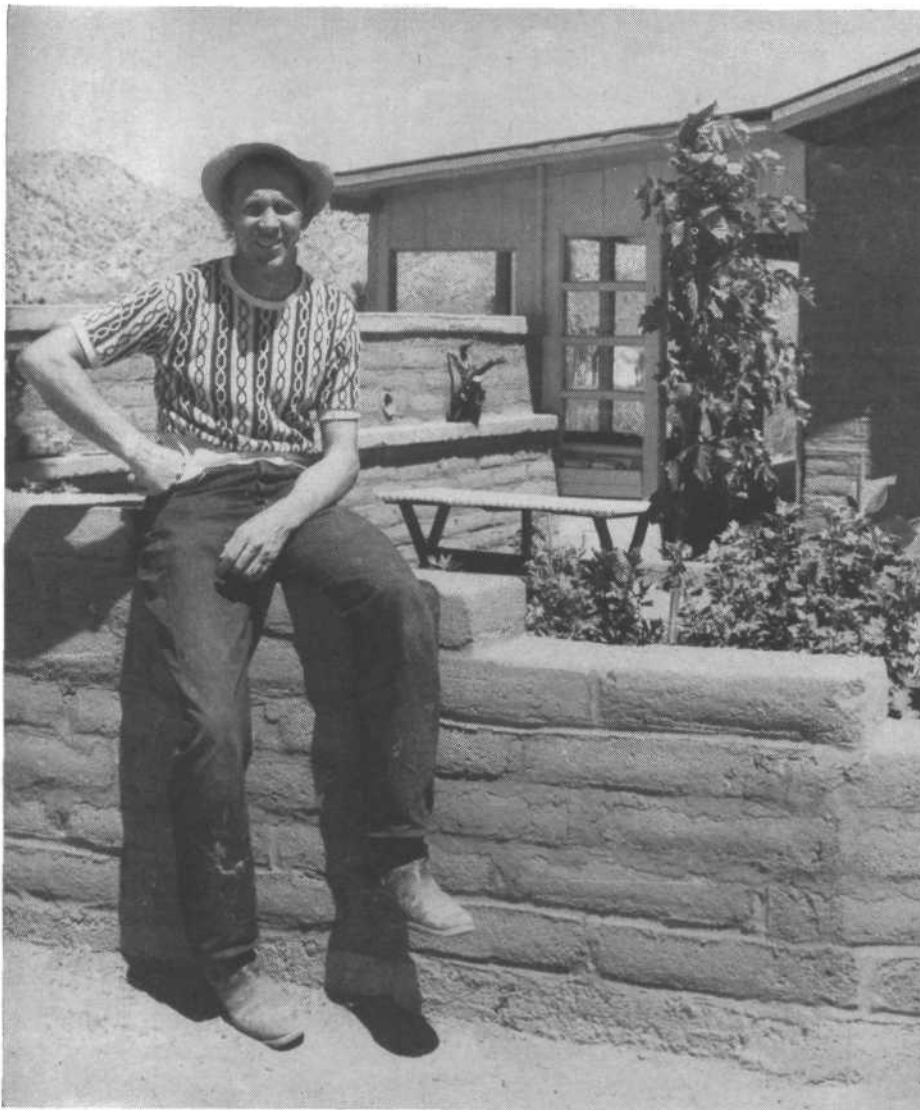
The artistry of the designer is disclosed when he discusses color. In his opinion, color is a necessity, not a



Above—Adobe, most favored but more expensive building material, is used in the home VanCamp built for his father. The patio barbecue fireplace chimney is also the living room fireplace chimney.

Center—The patio view of the house in picture two, showing the panorama which Donald VanCamp maintains to be the secret of the desert’s charm.

Below—Kitchen of the same house, built to preserve space. This kitchen is on the southeast side—that favored in Yucca valley because of the cold winds from the north and the heat of the western sun.



Desert designer-builder Donald VanCamp is amused at the idea of being a nattily attired, desk-fronted architect. He sees his desert-born homes from the time he creates them on paper until he finishes them.

luxury on the desert. But keep to the pastels. Violent colors merely irritate. The pastels blend with the desert landscape. If red is used, mix some purple with it for there is much violet in the desert shades. "Never use primary colors," warns VanCamp. "Use lots of umber. The desert colors have much umber in them."

Donald VanCamp has crowded many activities into his career. As a youngster at Catalina Island he dived for pennies. As a teen-ager he won a golf championship. He studied drafting at Pasadena Junior College, studied acting and won a college scholarship with his miniature stage designs. His hobby is designing toys, and during the war he served as an electrical engineer.

A little over a year ago he was commissioned to design a commercial building at Balboa, California. While

arranging for the contract he fell and broke his leg. Then he came out to his father's home in Yucca valley to recuperate. "I've just stayed on—I somehow couldn't leave," he says.

"On the desert there is much old-fashioned pioneer friendliness. There is a lack of tension. We work very hard here. But there is not the noise, the traffic, the confusion, the feeling of being pushed around. I have noted a common characteristic in old-timers on the desert. They have a kind of poise, a carefree spirit which comes from living in a peaceful relaxed world.

"In the city a home is too often merely a base for social operations. In the desert a home is built to live in. I like to build a home to reflect the owner's personality. For instance, in the Joshua Tree area we have many beautiful rocks. So I considered them

when recently I designed a motel for an ex-stonemason. He will build the lower part of the structure of these rocks and the upper part of adobe."

VanCamp has no thought of leaving Yucca valley. "I like this country because it is still new and vigorous. There is no frustration here. The desert has a way of melting people down to size. I like that. As long as Yucca valley attracts people who come not merely to make a living, but because they love the desert I'll stay here."

And VanCamp's own desert home? Muriel, his wife laughs, "Donald has been so busy designing houses for other people he hasn't had time to build his own model home yet. We still live in a trailer."

• • •

ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR HOPI, NAVAJO TRIBESMEN

Navajo and Hopi Indians of the Southwest will receive the benefit of the biggest increases in the \$59,001,-520 Indian program proposed by President Truman in his budget message to Congress. Department of Interior explained that the outlay would provide for expanding many services including welfare, health, educational community welfare, employment and the rebuilding of the Shiprock, New Mexico, boarding school and hospital. The fund would also be used for construction, development of irrigation farming, water exploration, and architectural engineering services. Work on the development of irrigable lands on the Colorado river reservation was provided for to the extent of \$3,000,-000 so that Navajos may be resettled there. No provision was made for an emergency work program for which funds were appropriated last year.

• • •

10,000 INDIANS MAY GO TO COLORADO RIVER VALLEY

If plans of the U. S. Indian service materialize, western Indians may become as common on the streets of Blythe, California, and Parker, Arizona, as in Albuquerque or Gallup, and there may be as many as 10,000 descendants of the original Americans, settled on 100,000 acres of reservation land across the Colorado river from Palo Verde valley in Arizona. Already, several families of Hopi, who are natural farmers, have been settled in the valley south of Parker. Ralph M. Gelvin, who was stationed at Parker during the war as associate director of the Japanese relocation project, has been named by W. E. Warne, assistant secretary of the interior, as superintendent of the reservation.

HERE AND THERE . . . on the Desert

ARIZONA

Have Plenty of Matches . . .

YUMA — "Make sure you have plenty of matches," is the advice of Mark Lynn, Yuma prospector, lost three days while on a prospecting trip. Lynn was lost 50 miles north of Yuma after he and his companion became separated. The third day out Lynn made the Eureka Mine camp. Meanwhile his partner had gone to town for help and a posse led by Sheriff Jack Beard took to the hills. Hereafter matches will top the old-timer's list of necessities for desert trekking.—*Yuma Daily Sun*.

Wildlife Not Overlooked . . .

WINSLOW — Northern Arizona's wildlife is not being overlooked in the air operations. Food flights are being made from Winslow, Clemenceau, and Prescott airports, covering most of the snowed in areas. The flights are made in light planes which can handle up to three bales of hay. The bales are broken into three parts and then tossed from the planes at an altitude of 150 to 200 feet. Antelope, elk, and deer have been sighted, but few turkeys. Fliers have been asked to take extra care in locating turkeys in distress.—*Coconino Sun*.

Churchill Declines Invitation . . .

PRESCOTT — Winston Churchill has declined an invitation to visit Jerome, Arizona, on his United States visit in March. Ersel Garrison, chairman of the Yavapai county board of supervisors, extended, by cablegram, the invitation to the former British prime minister to visit the copper mining town named after his maternal grandfather, Eugene Jerome. Churchill's reply, "Regret cannot accept your kind invitation."—*Tucson Daily Citizen*.

Navajo In Distress . . .

NAVAJO MOUNTAIN — Navajo Mountain school was turned into a hospital, and a hurry-up call for medical attention brought Dr. Phillip Scholtz from Ft. Defiance with food and medical supplies. "Some of the kids are in bad shape," he said. In a village near Navajo Mountain an outbreak of measles added to the troubles, and from Kayenta, northeast of Flagstaff, came reports of diphtheria and pneumonia. William E. Warne, assistant secretary of the Interior, estimated 6,000 Indians were isolated by the storms.—*Gallup Independent*.

Trader to Manage Crafts . . .

WIDE RUINS—William J. Lippincott has been appointed a commissioner of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, succeeding Dr. A. V. Kidder of the Carnegie Institution. The five-man board promotes development of crafts among American Indians. Lippincott has operated the Wide Ruins Trading Post 70 miles west of Gallup, New Mexico, since 1938. He helped develop the rug weaving industry among the Navajos in that area.—*Gallup Independent*.

Girl Shoots Buffalo . . .

HOUSEROCK VALLEY—Pauline Sinnett of Morenci got her buffalo at shooting range six miles from Marble Canyon Lodge. Her buffalo was the third biggest one killed, and weighed an estimated 900 pounds. The Sinnetts plan to have a robe made of the hide. The head is being mounted. Crowd of 200 witnessed the shooting of 50 buffalo over a two-day period. The wild bison hunt is an annual affair held in Houserock Valley. The herd was purchased by the Arizona Game and Fish commission in 1927 and a number are allotted for killing each year to prevent the animals from becoming too numerous for their limited feeding range. State game warden chooses the hunters by lot. Several hundred applications for the hunting privilege are made yearly. The hunter is permitted to retain the head, hide and one-quarter of the buffalo he kills.—*Aztec Independent Review*.

State Takes Ft. Huachuca . . .

PHOENIX — Arizona state was to take formal possession of Ft. Huachuca February 15, according to Robert O. Kelly, state surplus purchasing agent. The transfer of the historic Cochise county military installation involves approximately 77,000 acres of land and 1176 buildings. The area is to be used jointly by state national guard and Arizona state game and fish commission. Use of the area as a permanent national guard base is contemplated. The game department plans to introduce native game species and use some of the acreage for a recreational area.—*Tucson Daily Citizen*.

Museum Receives Grant . . .

FLAGSTAFF—Museum of Northern Arizona at Flagstaff recently received a grant from the Viking Fund of New York to finance archaeological

work this spring and summer. The Museum plans three different projects in northern Arizona: Dr. John C. McGregor and a group of graduate students from the University of Illinois will excavate pithouse sites near Red Butte south of Grand Canyon National Park. Dick Shutler, of the University of California, and small party, will explore sites of a pre-ceramic horizon in the Verde valley, near Sedona. Fred



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BOOKS — MAGAZINES

TEN YEARS of Desert Magazine, January 39 to Dec. 48 in numbered binders. Perfect condition, \$35.00 prepaid. W. W. Winquest, 265 Ximeno, Long Beach 3, Calif.

OUTDOOR RAMBLER—An outdoor publication that's different. Two years, \$1.00; 60c year; 10c copy. Outdoor Rambler, Box 884, Ione, California.

FOR SALE: Desert, Vol. I complete to Nov. 1948. Arizona Highway, 10 complete years, 105 extra copies. Make me an offer. Jay Gilkey, 1625 N.W. 29th, Oklahoma City, Okla.

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PALM SPRINGS Annual Pictorial. Beautiful desert pictures. On desert newsstands 35c, by mail 45c. Villager Magazine, Palm Springs, California.

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GOLD! YOU CAN PAN GOLD—It's easy! Healthy, profitable occupation or hobby. Send for big, illustrated book, "Gold Panning for Profit"—\$1.00. Want some of my genuine California gold? One beautiful nugget, \$1.00. Four nuggets, \$2.00. Other wonderful specimen gold nuggets, \$5 and \$10 each. Desert Jim, 627 Lillian, Stockton, California.

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FOR SALE: Five acre date garden near 100 Palms. Full price \$5500. Ronald L. Johnson, Realtor, Thermal, Calif.

COLORADO RIVER FRONTAGE, 16 acres, hunting, fishing, mineral, water rights, might divide, near Blythe. Also desert town lot, \$160. Ray Spillane, Vidal, Calif.

HOT MINERAL WATER—your own hot-water well and 5 beautiful desert acres for only \$8500. Imagine your own swimming pool—naturally heated! See R. H. McDonald, Box 21, Desert Hot Springs, Calif.

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DESERT HOT SPRINGS ten miles from Palm Springs, California. Unrestricted lot near pool, \$2000; business lot on Pierson, \$3800; excellent unit site, 4 lots on curved street, about one acre, \$2500. Write owner Box 473, Palm Springs, California.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

FOR SALE: Long established Trading Post and Gem Shop on main highway in Southern California. Will sell buildings and stock. For details write Box M, care Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, California.

YOUNG AMATEUR geologist has been conducting prospecting and geophysical survey on old Peralta Mine Site in Superstition Mountains for over two years. Now needs backing for further exploration on mine site and to make small tunnel in mineralized fault into ore body which houses original high grade gold mine. Old entrance blocked off by partial rock slide and overburden. All statements proven and more facts sent to interested party only. Please write Mr. L. M. E. S. c/o Mr. Charles Palmer, 22 E. Monte Vista Road, Phoenix, Ariz.

FOR SALE: GEMARTS, complete lapidary supply and equipment business. Has been operated on a part time basis since 1945 and has paid and grown every month since its inception. Will sell for slightly more than inventory. Accountants say it will provide a very good income if operated on a full time basis. Good investment for someone who wants only part time work. Good location. Steady list of buyers. Come in and see for yourself. GEM-ARTS, 4286 Marlborough, San Diego 5, Calif.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Wendorf, Jr. of Harvard University, and small party, will excavate early sites dating about 500 A.D. on the Petrified Forest national monument near Holbrook. Dr. Harold S. Colton, Director of the Museum, will be in general charge of the three projects.—*Gallup Independent*.

Sportsmen Against Gun Proposal...

CHANDLER — Denvon Rogers, president of the Chandler Hunting and Fishing association, announced the group voted strongly against the proposal of state peace officers to put through a law which would require Arizonians to register their firearms.—*Chandler Arizonian*.

Warren O'Hara, superintendent of the Browning, Montana, Blackfeet reservation, declares the law that bars sale of alcoholic beverages to Indians is outmoded. "Instead of prohibition," said O'Hara, "Indians ought to have local option. I am convinced that most of them would vote to bar liquor sales on the reservations. But they should be free to buy it legally off the reservation and consume it at will in their homes."

Hundreds of birds, blue jays, sparrows, juncos or snowbirds, have been in real danger. The storm covered every kind of food and they have sought help from friendly people. A number of housewives in the Williams area have their flocks of regular callers. The birds will eat crumbs, bits of fat and bird seed, but also need fine gravel or sand to aid digestion.

The plant, Ajo, which is Spanish for garlic, is a wild onion, according to Tom Childs, Ajo's oldest "old-timer." It grows all over the mountain sides during most years, and is eaten by some people, although hot. The plant has a pink blossom—and a decided odor of onion.

Squaws of snow-bound hogans in the Winslow area received an unexpected bonanza in the form of bright yellow nylon parachutes which bellowed to earth with relief parcels. They are busy plying their needles on garments destined for the annual Indian Pow-Wow.

CALIFORNIA

Dredge Dedicated...

NEEDLES — The Colorado River dredge assembled by the Pacific Coast Engineering company, approved and accepted by the Bureau of Reclamation, has been dedicated and christened and is now at work on the gigantic task of building a new river from Topock to Davis Dam. It is expected that five years will be consumed before

work of building the new channel will be completed.—*Desert Star*.

Desert's Big Fish Tale...

SALTON SEA — Game Wardens from Brawley, El Centro and Coachella valley swooped down on fishing operators working off the end of the South Mecca canal spillway, arrested several fishermen, confiscated thousands of dollars worth of nets and left several thousand fish dying on the beach. Radio announcements urged the public to salvage the fish, an invitation to which it responded by the hundreds for two days. The men were using illegal nets in making a haul of mullet.—*Desert Barnacle*.

Playground Along the Colorado...

IMPERIAL COUNTY — Two resolutions directing state agencies to survey sites above the Imperial Dam in the Colorado river, were passed by the California Assembly. One resolution

directs State Park Commission to investigate recreational possibilities and the other directs the State Highway Commission to survey future roadways through the area. Both measures were introduced by Imperial County Assemblyman George R. Butters.—*Date Palm*.

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Lost Mine Mystery . . .

DESERT HOT SPRINGS—A man walked into the news office. He did not give his name but said he had discovered a canyon near Borrego, in Imperial county, where he dug up an old trunk and found among other things a map suggesting location of a mine which might be Peg Leg Smith's lost mine, and a letter worn with age, dated May 11, 1852. The letter did not refer to the mine, but was signed—Geo. H. Smith and J. L. Smith. Could these Smiths be related to Peg Leg? Could someone have planted the evidence, or is it authentic? The man displayed both map and letter. He made no claim about his find.—*Desert Hot Springs*.

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What Does a Scorpion Look Like? . .

DEATH VALLEY—In answer to queries of Death Valley visitors who forever ask, "Just what does a scorpion look like?"—or, it may be a vinegerone, roadrunner, or centipede. An exhibit of desert insects, birds and small animals has been installed at Stove Pipe Wells hotel. As the collection grows it will occupy a new building and include minerals and items of historic interest. The building, already partly completed, will also be used for lectures, motion pictures, a meeting and exhibition place for photographic and other groups.

Register for Lost Gold Hunters . . .

BORREGO SPRINGS—Fulfilling one of his New Year's resolutions, Desert Steve Ragsdale of Desert Center early in February installed a permanent guest register for visitors who make the trek to the site of Pegleg Smith's rock monument at the base of Coyote mountain in Borrego valley. Desert Steve was a judge in the annual Liar's contest at the monument New Year's eve, and told those seated around the campfire he was going to install the register. It consists of a substantial metal box on a pedestal with a 1000-page register in the box and secured with a chain and padlock.

Quail Die by Hundreds . . .

MOHAVE—Hundreds of dead quail have been found in widely scattered areas of Mohave county. Bill Baxter, game warden, estimated that 80 percent of the county's quail population have starved during the heavy snowstorms. Men are busy taking grain to known habitats in an effort to save the remaining quail.—*Mohave Miner*.

Too Much Water in Lakes . . .

BLYTHE—Officials of the U. S. bureau of reclamation have notified that it will be necessary to increase flow of the Colorado river to 35,000 or 40,000 second feet, due to heavy snow packs in the Rocky mountains. Average discharge is 18,000 second feet. As soon as the bureau can determine the volume of the anticipated runoff in the Colorado river watershed, the discharge will be increased to lower the Leak Mead and Lake Havasu reservoirs to the safety point.—*Palo Verde Valley Times*.

Final 15-mile stretch of Trona-Death Valley road was started when Arthur Johnson construction firm of Laguna Beach swung into action at the Water canyon end of the projected highway across Panamint valley. The new job will connect the recently completed stretch over Slate Range Crossing with Wildrose Station, providing a level and oiled road from Trona to Death Valley.

The \$2,000,000 Atomic Energy Commission testing grounds on Salton Sea has been expanded another 18,024 acres. A lease for \$100 was approved by board of directors of Imperial Irrigation district. A building construction project is underway. The station is to be an atomic energy proving grounds.

Under the patented trademark of "Silver Mullet", a 500,000 can distribution of the famous fish, chunked and preserved in olive oil, will be made through 100 Southern California retail stores this year. The announcement by Norman Abell of Long Beach, is the first public revelation of the fact that Salton Sea mullet fishing has reached the proportions of a quarter million dollar industry.

Another chapter in state efforts to establish a marine game fish 250 feet below sea level in waters of the Salton Sea has been completed. Into the desert-bound lake has gone a second plant of anchovettas—the salt-water herrings which may some day provide a forage food for later plantings of large game fish.

SUN—DAYS

EVERY DAY AT AMERICA'S MOST DISTINGUISHED RESORT HOTEL; 35-ACRE GARDEN ESTATE, SWIMMING POOL AND ALL SPORTS. BUNGALOWS AND SUITES. AMERICAN PLAN.

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RESERVATIONS EASIER BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND AFTER EASTER.

THE DESERT INN

PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

China Lake Motorist W. E. Francis found Owens valley elk too numerous on U. S. 395. He crashed into a cow elk near Sawmill Creek crossing. The car was damaged to the extent of \$150. Capt. Howard Shelby, Fish and Game patrol reiterated his recent warning that motorists be cautious when driving between Big Pine and Independence as the elk seem to like the warm highway.

Starting July 1, engineers will begin a restudy of the forksite below where the little Mojave and Deep Creek rivers come together. It is estimated that a dam at the fork site that will hold 80,000 acre feet can be allowed to drain out at the rate of 500 second feet. A dam built by the army for flood control only, would not cost the district a cent, and it is felt that a dam for flood control purposes is all that is needed.

NEVADA

Soda Lake Active Again . . .

FALLON—J. O. Greenan, Reno mining engineer, has announced that work will start at Soda lakes this spring on a project of pumping water from depth for evaporating to solid sodium salines. For more than 50 years these lakes were the scene of a flourishing industry, then due to dam and reservoir and irrigation projects the level of Big and Little Soda began to rise—people were forced to leave, even the trees were inundated. No further activity went on for more than three decades. Greenan obtained his lease in 1947 and has been making tests to determine methods to be used in getting the sodium products out of the water. Greenan hopes to find in the lake beds deposits of crystalline sodium. If that is the case, the project may develop into a major Nevada undertaking.—*Fallon Standard*.

Mina Jacks Are Foxy . . .

MINA—According to W. E. Edds, the long-eared desert rabbits that have moved into Mina as a result of the storm have worked out a system of out-smarting Mina dogs. Mr. Jack-rabbit will take up the middle of the highway where he can easily keep ahead of the fastest hound. After reaching city limits the jack will circle and sail back into town and tiring of the fun will put on a burst of speed and vanish in some brush. Then another rabbit will start the pack on another wild chase. The dogs have become discouraged, and Mina rabbits are now enjoying the best rabbit-dog relations in Nevada.—*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

Ducks! Ducks! Who Wants 'Em . . .

NYE COUNTY—Mallard ducks have been busy cleaning out the trout in the Peavine rearing ponds. The trout have been fed on fresh horse meat since last May. Now it's wheat the web-footed scoop-bills are getting—two tons of it. Evidently the ducks were held up on their migration south by the heavy storms, and are unable to gather sufficient feed to build up strength for the trip southward.—*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

Precaution Against Floods . . .

CALIENTE—U. S. Army Corps of Engineers are rushing 10,000 sandbags to Caliente by fast truck transportation.

The bags will be used in the construction of levees along the banks of Meadow Valley wash in hope that expected flood waters may be confined to the present channel—if and when they reach dangerous proportions.—*Caliente Herald*.

A little feed can do a world of good this winter. Reno residents were reporting the appearance of many robins, woodpeckers and other birds in their yards, and at Tonopah, hundreds of jackrabbits have entered the town in search of food. Rabbits were reported to be running up and down the main street, darting into stores, and even begging at the back doors of homes.

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Hope to Restock Pyramid Lake . . .

TONOPAH—Pyramid lake, once famous fishing ground for giant cut-throat trout, is now without trout of any kind. The fish were destroyed when Derby dam, federal constructed, designed to turn the overflow water of the Truckee river into Lahontan dam, was used to divert most of the normal flow of the Truckee in addition, and the big trout were unable to ascend the river from the lake to reach their

natural spawning grounds. In 1948 the state fish and game commission entered into an agreement with the tribal council of the Indians, whose reservation surrounds the lake, and preparations were concluded to plant fingerling trout in the lake. For some reason the contract was later abrogated by the Indians. Plans are being formulated whereby negotiations may be reopened. It is believed the matter can be presented in a simpler and more clarified light and consent obtained to stock the lake. At least 300,000 fish will be required. —*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

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Turquoise Scarce . . .

TONOPAH—Ralph Swafford is busy cutting a large order of small turquoise stones termed "snake eyes". Size range from pin head to quarter-inch in diameter, and demand is limited only by supply. Swafford states that good material is almost impossible to obtain. Operators of properties producing high grade turquoise have

boosted prices as high as \$100 per pound.—*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

Lion Attacks Rancher . . .

EAGLE VALLEY—Roy Lytle, rancher, was throwing hay to his cattle, but hungry as they were, not one came near. Lytle went to investigate and was confronted by a mountain lion. The lion was standing in the road some distance back of the parked car. Lytle ran, and so did the lion. He reached the car just three leaps in advance. He has the lion's skin ready to be made into a floor rug to prove it.—*Pioche Record*.

Ferdinand Dies With Mate . . .

LAS VEGAS—Section hands on the Union Pacific railroad tell the story: A Brahma cow wandered onto the tracks and was killed by a speeding train. Crews went to bury the beast but a tough bull stood guard over his dead mate. The bull kept the lonely vigil day and night. Passing trainmen threw off hay but it was uneaten. So a Brahma bull, fiercest of range cattle died in the desert—of a broken heart.

A landmark of the old gold boom days in Searchlight—the Nevada Hotel, was destroyed by fire. Built in 1900 by Searchlight pioneer Bill Kennedy, the place was known for many years as the Kennedy House.

NEW MEXICO

Fight U. S. Plan to Buy Range . . .

ALBUQUERQUE—Military plans to buy a chunk of New Mexico were attacked by spokesmen for New Mexico cattlemen and miners. Gen. Grandison Gardner, speaking for both the army and the air force, told of plans to ask congress to buy state and private holdings in the 117-mile long area north of the Ft. Bliss gunnery range. The area is 35 miles wide. "Cattlemen are opposed to the move not only because they would lose their ranches, but because it would wreck the economy of southern New Mexico," said J. O. Seth, attorney for the association. —*Tucson Daily Citizen*.

See the Wild, Colorful, Spectacular San Juan Country with the Musselmans'

For 20 years the Musselman's have been making possible trips into the San Juan Colorado River country for people who desire to see and do something different.

A few additional reservations will be made for the 19-day pack trip that will begin on July 18th. This trip includes the Abajo Mts., Indian Creek Canyon, the Needles, the junction of the Green and Colorado Rivers, Salt Creek Canyon, Beef Basin, Fable Valley, Dark Canyon, South Elk Mts., and the great Natural Bridges. One to five day Jeep escorted trips to Monument Valley, Navajo Land, Goose Necks of the San Juan, Arches Nat. Monument, Dead Horse Point, Indian Creek Canyon and Bridges Nat. Monument. Camp with our Navajo friends and get an insight into the intimate family life of these people. Accommodations at the Musselman 4M Ranch. Write us for information.

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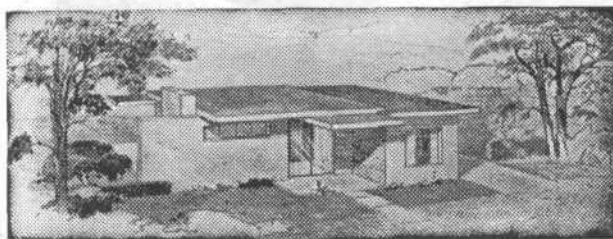
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Wants to Find Lost Decimal . . .

AZTEC—Superintendent Irving D. Townsend wants to get the addition to the Aztec Ruins national monument reduced to its actual size. A lost decimal point in some press release caused a report that 1,225 acres had been added. A period was supposed to have followed the figure "one" instead of a comma. Actual addition was one and a quarter acres. The addition is small but the mound contained on the ground is probably a great kiva. Known as the Hubbard Mound, the ruins will fill a gap in the group of prehistoric structures comprising the national monument.—*Farmington Times Hustler*.

Prehistoric Sloth Bones Found . . .

CARLSBAD—The bones of a prehistoric sloth have been found in the Carlsbad Caverns, 750 feet below the surface. Fragments of teeth, ribs and vertebrae of the extinct mammal turned up under the Devil's Den section of the caverns. D. S. Libbey, superintendent, said the discovery may serve as a key to learning how the caverns were formed.—*Yuma Daily Sun*.

Two-Legged Rattler Caught . . .

CARLSBAD—They've caught a two-legged snake down here. Q. G. Bright, who killed the six-foot rattler,

said there was a leg on each side near the rattles. Each was about an inch and a half long and a bit larger than a kitchen match. They had grown from the under side of the body and were rough like those of a horned toad.—*Gallup Independent*.

Plan Kit Carson Stamp . . .

TAOS—Chamber of Commerce has launched a statewide petition campaign on behalf of a commemorative postage stamp honoring Kit Carson. Kit Carson was a life-long resident of Taos, New Mexico, serving as a soldier, a scout and statesman. John J. McCurdy, who made several unsuccessful attempts to organize a Kit Carson Memorial association, donated money for an ad which sparked the current stamp campaign.—*El Crepusculo*.

One of the major New Mexico projects for 1949 is the development of the Conchas Dam recreational area. Lt. Col. Joseph O. Killian, district engineer, Albuquerque, states, "It is

the desire of my office to see Conchas Dam developed into a recreational area which will be a credit to Tucumcari and the State of New Mexico."

10-Year Navajo Programs . . .

GALLUP—"It's going to take at least three 10-year programs to get the Navajo Indians ready to run their own affairs," William E. Warne, assistant secretary of Interior, told the Indian Rights Association. Congress has been asked to approve a program costing \$90,000,000. Only with a generation of Navajo Indians born into English-speaking homes of healthy parents can the task of working toward the end of federal supervision of the Navajo begin.—*Gallup Independent*.

Indian Benefits Insured . . .

GALLUP—Senators from New Mexico and Arizona have introduced a bill to guarantee Social Security benefits to federal Indian wards, with the government paying 80 percent of the cost. Senator Chavez said the legis-

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—DESERT MAGAZINE

lation would put an end to suffering like that experienced by the Navajos in the West last year and solve to a great degree the suffering that seems to have existed among the old, the orphans and the blind year after year.—*Gallup Independent*.

Afternoon Dances Resumed . . .
GALLUP — Indian Ceremonial

Pinon Incense...

Bring the delightful fragrance of the Pinon Forest into your home or office. The burner is a miniature model of the outdoor baking ovens used by prehistoric Indians, and still in use in New Mexico pueblos. When the little cones of genuine pinon pine are burned in this tiny oven the aroma is a breath of the outdoor Southwest.

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Palm Desert, California

dances will be scheduled at afternoon performances of the 28th Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial this August, directors of the association decided. Dances at the afternoon shows were eliminated at the 1948 Ceremonial for the first time and the afternoons given over entirely to Indian sports, athletic and rodeo events. The dances were eliminated because it was believed that spectators attending only the afternoon shows received a wrong impression of the Gallup Ceremonial. However, many spectators objected to the sports-rodeo programs and were disappointed because no dances were staged.—*Gallup Independent*.

UTAH

Big Year for Neighborhood House . .

SALT LAKE CITY—Neighborhood House has ended its biggest year according to Miss Julia Martin, executive secretary, and Mrs. Paul H. Shields, president. "The 47,000 children and adults who visited us in 1948 is a far cry from the 15 children who were aided by Neighborhood House during its first year," said Miss Martin. Organized in 1894 by Emma K. McVicker, Neighborhood House rented space in the old Odd Fellows hall and was kept going in the early days by gifts of local concerns. In 1912, the state began contributing funds toward its maintenance, and in 1926, when Community Chest was organized, the House became one of the first Red

Feather agencies. Special project of the year will be enlargement of the shop. Another civic service assumed is the nursery school, licensed to attend the needs of 100 tots. Age limit is from two to nine inclusive. Ability to pay determines the fee in each particular case. Free health services offered are the child health conference and the dental clinic.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

Navajo School In Utah . . .

BRIGHAM CITY — The Senate passed legislation for transfer of 3,700-bed former Bushnell Army Hospital to the Indian Service for use as a Navajo school for 2,000 children. Interior Department reported the use of Bushnell Hospital for this purpose entirely feasible. Brigham City officials and businessmen have promised the department that Navajo children and their parents will be assured of fair treatment. They will be welcome in local restaurants, hotels, stores and theatres; receive justice if there is occasion for them to appear in local courts; be protected from exploitation by liquor dealers or gamblers.—*Gallup Independent*.

Elk Are Hungry Too . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—Two herds of elk, totaling 140, were sighted in the vicinity of 22nd South Street east of U. S. Highway 40. "They came down for the same reason deer have migrated to the valley," said Merrill Hand, chief warden, state fish and game commission. "We've set up feeding grounds in the area and, just as hungry as deer or cougars, they've come down to eat."—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

COUNTY MAPS

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Siskiyou—\$2 and \$4.

Inyo County, \$15; E or W ½ \$7.50; San Bernardino, 73x110, \$15; No. or So. ½ \$7.50; NW., SW., NE., or SE ¼, \$3.75.

Also Oregon, Idaho and Washington County Maps

WORLD'S MINERALS

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OAKLAND 12, CALIFORNIA

**PANORAMA
RANCH**
PALM DESERT • CALIFORNIA

"PLANNED FOR CASUAL LIVING"

ANSWERS TO TRUE OR FALSE

Questions are found on page 22

- 1—True. 2—True.
- 3—False. Gypsum gives the sands their whiteness.
- 4—False. Geronimo died on the government reservation at Fort Sill, Oklahoma February 17, 1909.
- 5—True. 6—True.
- 7—False. Carson City is the capital of Nevada.
- 8—True.
- 9—False. *Washingtonia filifera* is a fan type palm which does not grow edible dates.
- 10—False. The north rim of the canyon is highest.
- 11—True.
- 12—False. The blossom of Chuparosa is red.
- 13—True.
- 14—False. Sunset crater is believed to be of volcanic origin.
- 15—True.
- 16—False. Carlsbad caverns were discovered by Jim White in 1901.
- 17—False. Bill Williams was a famous "Mountain Man".
- 18—False. Cholla cactus is used by the craftsmen.
- 19—False. Fossilization is believed to have taken place while the wood was submerged in water.
- 20—True.

Education Is an Investment . . .

SAN JUAN—Recent budget-cut proposals for education in the State of Utah are a step backward in Utah's educational example to the Nation. With a far inadequate budget, Utah has led the Nation in educational achievement, but cannot continue without greater financial help, rather than less as has been proposed. The state needs at least \$15,000,000 for building purposes alone. Without state aid chances for any new schools in San Juan are extremely slim, and lay groups should write the lawmakers urging an adequate school program, advises Principal Winget.—*San Juan Record*.

. . .

Bison Herd Is Starving . . .

ANTELOPE ISLAND—"Buffalo are scattered over the 60-square-mile island and it's a pretty thin chance they'll get any of the hay dropped for cattle," said W. H. Olwell, president and general manager, Island Improvement Co. The herd was planted on the island 75 years ago, and has been kept down to 25 head. Non-gregarious when hungry, the bison have spread and won't mix with cattle even long enough to feed.—*Salt Lake Tribune*.

. . .

Salt Plant Is Ruined . . .

SALT LAKE CITY—Huge Saltair plant of the Royal Crystal Salt company was destroyed by fire. Two women salt packers were seriously burned. Cause was unknown and loss would total hundreds of thousands of dollars. Salt Lake county firemen said they could do little to save the plant because of lack of water. Temperatures estimated as low as 22 below zero, caused the water to freeze in the hoses.—*Humboldt Star*.

. . .

Charles W. Larabee has announced that he will make passenger boat trips down the San Juan river from Bluff, Utah, to Lee's Ferry, Arizona, May 1 and 12 and June 3 and 15. Seven passenger trips are to be made through Glen canyon in the Colorado in July, August and September.

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CHARLES LARABEE
Encinitas, California

The Glaucous gull seldom ventures south of British Columbia in the west or New Jersey in the east. But the snowy wastes of Skull valley in Tooele county, where he was seen by eight Audubon society members, evidently caught his eye. When spied by the party, the arctic bird was engaged in gobbling up a frozen snake. Charles W. Lockerbie, chairman of field trips for the Salt Lake chapter, reported that it was the first time he had seen this type gull in the state.

. . .

More than 5000 "fry" trout were electrocuted when wires from a burning storage shed dropped into a rearing pond of the Salt Lake county fish and game association. The fire, which started from a faulty oil heater, destroyed the building, valued at \$500, and caused damages estimated at \$1000.

. . .

A bill introduced in Washington by Senators Arthur V. Watkins and Elbert D. Thomas, Utah, would permit three Uintah basin towns to purchase Indian-owned land within and adjacent to

their municipal limits. The measure would authorize Ute Indian council to sell tribal lands to Duchesne and Myton, Dechesne county, and Randlett, Uintah county. At present, the lands cannot be taxed or developed by those communities.

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THE *Desert* MAGAZINE
Palm Desert, Calif.

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MINES AND MINING . . .

Inyo, California . . .

Despite the burning of a tramway tower early in February, development work at U. S. Vanadium's tungsten mine is being continued on a seven-day-a-week basis according to Manager D. D. Baker. The company has a 25,000-ton stockpile, and expects to have its Zero tunnel on a production basis by the time this stockpile is processed.—*Inyo Register*.

• • •

Tonopah, Nevada . . .

New development work on the 700-foot level has disclosed a large body of ore in the Nivloc mine seven miles west of Silver peak and 60 miles southwest of Tonopah, it is reported. A larger hoist is being installed at the surface and preparations made for steady ore production. Under operation of Desert Silver, the Nivloc mine produced 250,000 tons of \$12-\$13 ore during the five years preceding 1943.—*Tonopah Times Bonanza*.

• • •

Tonopah, Nevada . . .

Actual work of reopening the Big Divide mine six miles south of Tonopah, is underway according to Charles Joseph, Louis Cirac and John Klaus, who have taken over the property on a long-term lease. Much high grade gold and silver ore has been taken from the property during the past 25 years. Three sub-lesors are now operating at the mine and additional sub-leases are expected to be made. The mine was first located in 1901.—*Pioche Record*.

• • •

Las Vegas, Nevada . . .

State officials of Nevada have announced that the townsite of Henderson and its adjacent Basic Magnesium plant, purchased from the federal government less than a year ago for \$25,000,000, are to be offered for sale. The townsite property is to be sold to its resident occupants, and the BM plant to private industry. Disposal of the property will have to be authorized by the state legislature.—*Pioche Record*.

• • •

Fallon, Nevada . . .

According to reports here, the Snow-Lite Products company of Reno has completed plans for the installation of a plant to process perlite from two deposits near Fallon. The ore would be crushed and screened here, and trucked to Reno for fabrication for insulation purposes.—*Fallon Standard*.

Salt Lake City . . .

The present method of "high-grading" the known deposits of radioactive ores is neither good mining or good business, according to the view of M. C. Tunison, veteran uranium prospector. It is never good mining, he pointed out in a letter to the Salt Lake Tribune, to pick out only the high grade and leave 75 to 90 percent of the pay dirt behind. Tunison feels that the entire uranium program as being handled in the eastern Utah and western Colorado field is confusing and wasteful.—*Times Independent*.

• • •

Boulder City, Nevada . . .

When Art G. Klinger, junk man, brought up ore containing gold, silver and copper, from a well he was drilling near Railroad pass, he started a miniature stampede to the area. Prospecting in this area was halted when Uncle Sam withdrew the area from entry at the time Hoover dam was started, but the ban was lifted last August, and many claims have been staked recently.—*Humboldt Star*.

• • •

Bonanza, Utah . . .

American Gilsonite company is planning to spend between \$200,000 and \$300,000 for the construction of a gilsonite dissolving plant according to E. H. Owen and R. E. Nelson, company officials. Dissolved gilsonite will be marketed through the 10-inch Salt Lake-Rangely pipe line when the new plant here is completed. The company will continue to truck a considerable part of its product to Craig, Colorado, for reshipment to other parts of the country.—*Vernal Express*.

• • •

Superior, Arizona . . .

Productive operation of the San Manuel copper deposits, taken over by the Magma Copper company following its discovery in 1944, is still five or six years away, according to authoritative reports. Exploratory work has been underway for some time and underground work recently has been started. It is understood a reduction plant will be built at the mine, which is 3½ miles southwest of Mammoth on the San Pedro river.—*Battle Mountain Scout*.

• • •

Nevada leads all other states in the production of tungsten according to the report of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

LETTERS . . .

Fact or Superstition? . . .

Saugus, California

Desert:

My son called my attention to your letters on the subject of water-witching. I have practiced this so-called doodlebug art for the last three years. I have been employed to locate water by approximately 120 people, and I believe at least 98 percent of them have gotten satisfactory wells.

The quantity cannot always be told. Some shallow ones produced three gallons a minute. Others at 500 feet produced 1200 gallons a minute. Your writer mentioned using a forked stick. I do that sometimes, also a single stick to determine the approximate depth. But most of my work is done with a piece of wire, steel or iron.

Like one of your writers, I feel fatigued after a few hours of such work. I think science should delve more deeply into this subject.

H. G. WILLDAY

• • •

Lake Hughes, California

Desert:

I read with interest the letter by C. W. Munson in defense of water-witching. He is right, and I want to add a little from my own experience.

It should not be called water-witching or divining because that adds an element of mystery, as if the devil had something to do with it. Locating water is the same as locating oil and minerals by geophysical magnetism, of which we know very little as yet. The Big Boys of geological science know even less.

It is not mental influence when I locate water or minerals. I use an instrument which is called a Doodlebug. It has taken me 15 years to get the bugs out of the Bug.

HERB BROWN

• • •

Corvallis, Oregon

Desert:

I know nothing about rock formation, but I can do water-witching. Years ago my husband doubted my ability. He took hold of one end of the forked stick and my father the other end, holding outside my hands. The result was the bark was twisted off the stick.

Call it crazy if you will, but I can witch water, and like the others, I feel fatigued after the experience.

MRS. ANNA C. BOSTWICK

Mystery Remains Unsolved . . .

Bremerton, Washington

Desert:

Our family is much intrigued by the story "Mystery Death in the Dunes" by Orion M. Zink which appeared in your February issue. Our great grandfather set out from Missouri in the early days with a party of men for California and completely dropped out of sight along the way. We will let Desert know if we should find any evidence to indicate that the Missouri party may have been involved in the massacre.

DOROTHY C. NELSON

• • •

Castle Point, New York

Desert:

I've just been reading "Mystery Death in the Dunes" by Orion M. Zink. Examining the photos which I presume were taken at the scene, it occurs to me that perhaps the author or Mr. Park, the surveyor, may not have noticed that in three of the pictures the skeletal remains are located in about the same position with regard to the desert shrubs.

Assuming the greasewood is very aged and has not been affected by the shifting dunes, this leads one to believe that the men may have been using the bushes for concealment. If true, this would indicate the direction from which the attack came and a search at rifle range in that direction might give some added clues as to the attacking party.

HELEN E. WRIGHT

• • •

Trail of the Wreckers . . .

Portland Oregon

Desert:

Month after month in your good magazine I find reference to vandalism on the desert—destruction of signs, burning of palms and buildings, pollution of water, robbing and wrecking graveyards of sentimental and historical value. I keep searching for a fitting word, one with meaning lower, much lower than vandal, to apply to the kind of people who do that kind of thing.

Even a coyote has a place in this earth's balance. But human vandals, even though their numbers are small, are just wreckers, and no word of justification can be said in their behalf.

Mr. Hartley has done us all a good turn in suggesting the name of "litter-lout" for those heedless people who destroy the beauty of the outdoors by leaving tin cans, lunch paper and garbage on the landscape. But we still need a word of utter contempt to apply to the destroyer who leaves behind a trail of mutilated signs, carved tree

trunks, paint-daubed rocks, and the skeletons of burned trees and buildings.

JIMMIE JAMES

Correcting the Snow Reporter . . .

Stove Pipe Wells

Desert:

Just a word of correction please, in your Death Valley snow report of last month. Your reporter mentioned two feet of snow on the floor of Death Valley. Actually we had between one and two inches, and it melted away within 24 hours. It was only above the 4,000-foot level that two feet of snow remained on the hilltops.

GEORGE PALMER PUTNAM

For the Sake of Accuracy . . .

Highland, California

Desert:

Not to criticize your good magazine, but merely for the sake of accuracy, let me call attention to the reference in a recent issue to Mrs. Edna Cast as "the Americano". In Spanish, that is the masculine form. The feminine form is *Americana*.

Also, in the story of the Cave of Lost Art you referred to the community of "Mulage" in Baja California. Actually the name is Mulege.

EARL R. VICK

Hard Rock Shorty of Death Valley



The lean-to porch in front of the Inferno store was overflowing with tourists, all trying to crowd in out of the hot April sun, while the ranger-naturalist lectured on the wildlife on Death Valley. Hard Rock Shorty offered his seat on the much-whittled bench to a young lady in slacks and sun glasses, and then sauntered over and perched on the edge of the water trough at the end of the porch.

The naturalist was telling about the life and habits of the desert rodents, and finally got around to packrats.

"And is it true, Mr. Ranger, that when they carry away something they always leave an article of value in exchange?" asked one of the party.

"That story has been greatly exaggerated," the ranger replied. "They don't always leave something of value . . ."

"The hell they don't!" broke in Shorty. "Why them little rascals know more about the value of things than a lot o' bankers I've known."

"Take that time Pisgah Bill and me was prospectin' up over th' other side o' the Panamints. We'd found a little placer gold in the gravel and wuz lookin' fer more. We had the dutch oven along and Bill'd make a batch of

biscuits every evening. Good cook, Bill wuz. One night we had a couple o' biscuits left and Bill left 'em on the lid of the oven. Next morning when we woke up them biscuits wuz gone, and there was two of the prettiest little gold nuggets yu ever saw.

"We looked harder'n ever that day, but we couldn't find where them nuggets come from. Next evening Bill left two more biscuits on the lid, and sure enough when we woke up there wuz two more nuggets.

"This beats prospectin' all holler," exclaimed Bill, and so every evening Bill would leave two or three biscuits lyin' around, and before mornin' the packrats 'd find 'em an' bring in bits o' gold to trade for 'em.

"But after four or five days we ran out o' bakin' powder. The biscuits Bill made that night were so flat and soggy we could hardly eat 'em. 'Them trade rats 'll never know the difference,' said Bill, and that night we left six o' them no-count biscuits where they'd be easy to find.

"Well, they disappeared all right, but what do you think we found in place of 'em?" Shorty stopped and lighted his corncob while the dudes waited breathlessly for the answer.

"Bottle tops from the garbage dump!"

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"NATION'S LARGEST MFGRS OF FINE LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT"



By LELANDE QUICK, Editor of The Lapidary Journal

As we review the piles of correspondence crossing our desk, organize new lapidary societies and visit others, a new fact is daily impressing itself upon our consciousness—that the number of *female* lapidaries is increasing very rapidly indeed. The membership of the newer societies is about equally divided between men and women. Several important societies have women presidents. Important articles on gem cutting and silvercraft are being written by women. It is an important trend that wise dealers and manufacturers should regard.

We can think of several reasons why this has come to pass. Women have always been industrious users of their hands and developers of their creative instincts. Many of the things on which they spent their spare time in the past, because of economic necessity, have been abandoned. When did you last see a woman making a patchwork quilt? They now watch the ads for sales of electrically heated blankets (to which we will never succumb!). By and large the whole school of needle working ladies is vanishing, for the items that the women used to knit, crochet, etc., do not fit in with modern decor. It seems that when women started wearing trouser-effect clothing they threw away their needles and starting working at the grinders while their men sawed rocks.

The fact that so many women went into war industries and learned the difference between a nut and a bolt has had a lot to do with a newly acquired interest in mechanical gadgets and machinery. Women are no longer awed by engineering—they drive cars. And the evolution of woodshed and spare-part lapidary machinery from the messy mud saw to the present slick and clean lapidary assembly has been the greatest factor in attracting women to the lapidary bench.

About two years ago we advised a manufacturer of lapidary equipment to design an outfit aimed at two classes of people—women and apartment dwellers who had no room for a shop. He did so and encountered immediate success and acceptance of his model. It was built so that two people could work at it at the same time. It could be moved anywhere, needed no plumbing supply and required no kit of tools for the constant changing of wheels, etc.

But the main reason, we believe, is that women lapidaries are increasing rapidly for the same reason the number of male gem cutters is growing. The national trend is toward self entertainment instead of passive entertainment. People have become weary of watching dull movies and listening to corny radio programs. They want to entertain themselves and become active. These people are learning about gem cutting and silvercraft. These things are being brought home from school by their youngsters. The whole family can play together. And so the mineralogical societies of 15 years ago, composed in the main of males above the age of fifty, are now being transformed into mineral and gem societies composed

of men and women. And the average age is becoming lower all the time. It is good.

In January we gave some information about cutting the new wonder gem rutile. Quite a number of the cut stones are proudly being shown about and few indeed are the persons who are not completely awed by them. After a great deal of experimenting by the makers of the new gem (it is synthetic) the best cutting procedure appears to be as follows:

The gem should be cut in a standard brilliant of 57 facets; 24 on the pavilion and 33 on the crown including the table. The table is usually cut 0.6 the diameter of the girdle. A slight improvement occurs when it is cut 0.4. We have seen a stone with a large table that looked like nothing at all and an emerald cut does not show the beauty of the stone. The crown main facets are cut at 30°, the star facets at 15°, the girdle facets at 35°. The pavilion main facets are cut at 40° and the girdle facets at 41½°. Members of the FACETEERS, of the Los Angeles Lapidary society, are producing beautiful gems by cutting the main crown facets 34° and the main pavilion facets 41°.

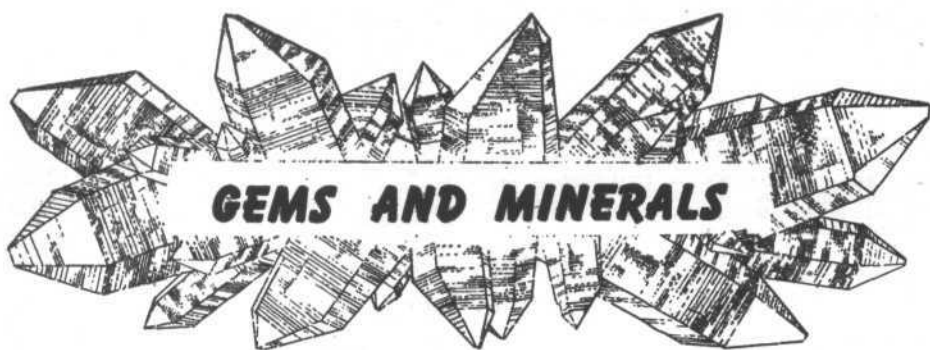
Cutting is done on a diamond impregnated copper lap (400 mesh) as for sapphire. Preliminary polishing is done with 10 micron diamond on a tin lap with olive oil lubricant. Final polish is with Linde A powder on a 50-50 tin-lead solder lap. The Linde A with water gives a good clear polish that has been impossible with diamond, even 0-1 micron.

For all facets except the table it has been important to use flat, unscratched laps, both for diamond and Linde A, to avoid severe rounding, particularly of facet intersections, as this rounding detracts from the appearance of the stone. Scored laps can be used for tables where rounding is not severe because of a large surface. The scored laps will give an unscratched table which cannot be obtained with a flat lap. Scratching caused by the flat lap is not so severe on the smaller facets and what little occurs must be accepted in order to obtain flat facets.

We repeat the advice we gave in January—do not dop with hot wax. Use Duco cold cement. The word is pronounced *root-teel*. Heat discolors the stone. Heat also cracks the stone, as we found to our sorrow when we disobeyed the instructions and proceeded to polish it on a lucite lap which gets hot before you are aware of it. The material is 6 to 6½ in hardness on Mohs' scale and 900 to 950 on the Knoop. Rutile has greater brilliance than the diamond and equals the best opal in coloring.

GEM SHOW CALENDAR

SOUTHWEST MINERALOGISTS—April 16 and 17—Masonic Temple, 41st Pl. and Figueroa St., Los Angeles.
SAN JOSE LAPIDARY SOCIETY—April 23 and 24—Women's Club, 75 S. 11th St., San Jose, California.
STATE MINERAL SOCIETY OF TEXAS—April 23 and 24—Plaza Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.



GEMS AND MINERALS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HOLDS ANNUAL BANQUET

For years Northern California Mineral society has held a banquet in January for installation of new officers. This year's affair was held on January 19 at the Del Mar restaurant in Marina. Sixty-five rockhounds were present and the talk was of the big salad and malachite, of soup and polishing agents, of raviolas and tetragonal trisectahedrons—all mixed up with facets, fried chicken, ultraviolet generators, baked ham, botryoidal coloforms, ice cream, rutulated quartz, and coffee. Dr. Austin F. Rogers of Stanford University gave a brief account of his latest trip, and Dr. Olaf Jenkins, Chief of the California Bureau of Mines, San Francisco, told of the new Bureau of Mines Bulletin No. 141 which gives a mile-by-mile account of the geology of the Mother Lode country along California Highway 49. Francis J. Sperisen, first president of the NCMS, told the early history of the society, which is now in its fourteenth year. New officers elected as follows: William P. Stearns, president; Ivan Branson, vice president; Patricia Truka, secretary; David Friedman, treasurer; Millicent McMinn, librarian; Jessie Unwin, hostess; Lloyd Demrick, curator; David Mitchell, Harold Newman, Louis Eday, Arthur Maudens, directors. Raffle awards and drawings for door prizes rounded out the evening's entertainment.

'49ER PARTY AT TRONA YIELDS PROFIT OF \$2000

Treasurer Eddie Redenbach reports that from a financial standpoint the 1949 annual '49er Party of the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral society can stand on its own as an outstanding success. Redenbach's report reveals receipts amounting to \$2000. Sol Goldstone and his deputies took in \$45.66 in fines from visitors who had made no attempt to adorn their faces with whiskers. The '49er parade was heralded as best ever presented in Trona. Hundreds of residents of the Searles valley as well as visitors from surrounding areas lined the one and one-half mile route of the colorful parade.

PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED BY PACIFIC MINERAL CLUB

Past-Presidents of the Pacific Mineral society were honored at the February 11 meeting. Each was presented with an engraved gavel in appreciation for services rendered. Past-President O. C. Smith talked of his vacation experiences "Panning Gold", and Florence M. Ingledue exhibited a collection of gold nuggets of various sizes. Several ounces of fine gold, a nugget necklace and ring as well as other pieces of nugget jewelry were also on display. New officers of the society are as follows: Harold E. Eales, president; John A. Jones, vice president; Leon Heghinian, second vice president; Lillian I. Allard, secretary; W. A. Clarke, treasurer; R. J. Wilson, field trip director; A. H. Savage, director.

LARGEST GATHERING AT NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

After a lapse of six years, members of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society returned to their former quarters in the Natural History museum, for the January meeting. The custodian declared the assemblage of 140 persons to be the largest during his 26 years of service with the museum. Members of Mineral Resources divisions displayed material illustrating phases of mineralogy and methods of prospecting. Officers elected were: Ralph T. Salsbury, president for a second term; Capt. H. M. Peterson, vice president; treasurer and various secretaries to be appointed by the board. Division chairmen: Lyell C. Hunt, mineral resources; Ray O. Plummer, mineralogy, Col. E. W. Keirstead gem and lapidary.

Lovers of purple amethyst will want to see the two columns of amethyst at the San Diego Fine Arts gallery. A brief history of the columns reads as follows: "Amethyst Quartz column formerly belonging to a Czar of Russia given by members of the Timpken family in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Appleton S. Bridges, the donors of the Fine Arts Gallery." The columns are approximately 10 inches in diameter and eight feet tall, composed of various sized pieces of stones set together in mosaic fashion forming a smooth finish and perfectly rounded column.

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REMEMBER NEXT TRIP to see our Spring display. This month's mail order special: A 1" crystal of aquamarine beryl, plus, a 3/4" Herkimer diamond (quartz), for \$1.00 postpaid. The Erskine Collection, 307 Rosemont St., La Jolla, California.

SPECIAL—NEWS—SPECIAL. Ben has covered 3000 miles on an extended trip, gathering material. Perhaps you have met him or will see him before his return. Have received several shipments of excellent material, such as Pyrite nodules, something new. Outside red; inside, silver grey. Hard as a rock. Antimony. Picture wood, Onyx. Aragonite and Calcite specimens. Flowering Obsidian. Apache Teardrops. Geodes and nodules from various localities. Green Lace Agate, etc. Send for list and prices. Look up our Jan. Feb. March Specials—they are still good. BEN & EDNA, Morton Minerals & Mining, 1901 So. Muscatel, Rosemead, Calif.

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GEM VILLAGE — Gems, Materials, Antiques. Lots for sale. Write Frank Morse, Bayfield, Colorado.

NEVADA MOSS AGATE: New find. Available in red, green, yellow, brown and combinations of same. Beautiful cabochon material. Select slabs 25c sq. in. Rough material \$1.00 lb. Nevada Minerals Co., 1800 B St., Sparks, Nev.

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MONTANA MOSS AGATES in the rough for gem cutting \$1.50 per lb. plus postage. Also Slabbed Agate 25c per sq. in. (Minimum order \$1.00). Elliott Gem Shop, 26 Jergins Arcade, Long Beach 2, California.

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Under direction of the Adult Education program of Los Angeles City Schools, classes in mineralogy-geology are meeting in three of the Los Angeles evening high schools: North Hollywood High, Mondays; Hollywood High, Tuesdays and Thursdays; Belmont High, Wednesdays-Fridays—7:00-10:00 P.M. During the spring semester work will consist of studies of principles of geology; origin and occurrence of metallic and non-metallic minerals; nature and properties of minerals, including laboratory work.

AMONG THE ROCK HUNTERS

Members of the State Mineral Society of Texas are concentrating their attention on the annual mineralogical show to be held in San Antonio April 23-24. The San Antonio Rock and Lapidary society, organized only a few months, have extended full co-operation and will handle all the local publicity, registration and banquet. The show is to be held on the Roof Garden of the Plaza Hotel. J. J. Brown, president of the State Mineral society, reports that he "fizzled" out on a recent trek in search of topaz. Webster defines "fizzled" as "to fail miserably." Brown followed all leads of well-meaning friends but did not find even one small "topacita", Spanish word for a very, very small topaz.

San Diego Lapidary society mourns the loss of its founder Robert V. Clapp, who passed away January 12. Clapp was an experienced rock hound and was always ready to help a fellow collector get started. He was a familiar figure at displays and shows.

Ed Roberts of Picacho, California was speaker at the January meeting of the Yuma Gem and Mineral society. He spoke of the mineral deposits of the Yuma area. A question and answer forum followed. A Sunday trek was planned for January 30 to the petrified forest. Capt. Garland Payton, Atlanta, Ga., director of Department of Mining and Geology of State College of Georgia, was guest speaker at the February meeting. Captain Payton was en route to a convention of the American Association of State Geologists at San Francisco. He read of the newly organized Gem and Mineral society in the Yuma Daily Sun and became interested in their activities. Another field trip was scheduled for February 27 to the G. E. Barrett ranch and vicinity.

Plans for joining with the NOTS in a gem hunting field trip February 26 to Inyo county were formulated at the February meeting of the San Jacinto-Hemet Rock-hound club. The trip was to be in the form of an excursion including a stop at the Riverside County Fair and Date Festival at Indio.

Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral society planned a trip for February 20 to the vicinity of Cadiz where specimens of agate and various fluorescent rocks are found.

Oregon Agate and Mineral society at Portland announce officers for 1949 as follows: M. C. Yeager, president; J. M. Mason, vice president; Mrs. L. McDonald, secretary; O. A. Hausotte, C. F. Struckman, A. J. Schneider and D. L. Shank, directors. The society founded in 1933, is one of the pioneer groups of its kind in the country. Since its founding the club has sponsored some 350 public meetings and field trips.

Feather River Gem and Mineral society held a penny anniversary at the January 27 meeting. Chas. Bush gave a short talk on the "Relationship of the Elements", and Don Parker read an article from an Australian newspaper on the use of beryllium in the hardening of copper. It was voted that a sales table be inaugurated at the next meeting, ten per cent of all sales to go to the society's building fund.

At the Southwest Mineralogists February meeting, jewelry classes from the Inglewood high school attended with their instructor. John Akers, club founder and first president, was speaker for the evening and talked on various aspects of the interior of Peru, illustrating with colored slides. A motion was made to grant Akers a life membership in the society, and was carried unanimously. Show chairman Frank Trombatore again announced that April 16-17 would be the dates for the twelfth annual show.

Annual election of the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral club was held January 19. Following officers were elected: H. W. Kelsen, president; Louis W. Heister, vice president; Mrs. Guy M. Shockley, treasurer; Mrs. Josephine Copeland, recording treasurer; Mrs. Mabel D. Kelsen, corresponding secretary. Guy M. Shockley, president of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral societies, and retiring president of the local club, was presented a gift in appreciation of services rendered during 1948. At the February meeting John Garcia, state inspector of mines for New Mexico, talked on "The Mine Inspector's Role as an Advisor to the Prospector and New Mine Operator."

At the January meeting of the San Diego Mineral and Gem society, Edgar A. Parser spoke on "The History of Diamonds, As They Are Found in Brazil." "The entire area of Brazil is diamond bearing, and may be found in anybody's back yard," said Parser. An educational exhibit of minerals was displayed by the Mineral Resources division. Divisional chairmen were elected as follows: E. W. Keirstead, gem and lapidary; Roy O. Plummer, mineralogy; Lyell C. Hunt, mineral resources. At the February 3 meeting, Joe B. Stetson explained and demonstrated the process of mounting stones in silver and gold mountings. He exhibited some of his own handiwork, also some ancient Indian jewelry.

Members and visitors of Glendale Lapidary society enjoyed an evening of story telling at the February meeting. Dan White related his experiences on a recent trip into Pegleg mine district. Frank Fuller compared White's trip by car to his own over the same route by wagon when a youth. Tentative plans were made for the annual show. A field trip was scheduled for the week-end of February 19-20 to the Yermo district.

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R. M. Addison of the San Jose Lapidary society gave a talk on "Cameo and Rock Carving" at the regular meeting of the East Bay Mineral society held February 3. His talk included silver soldering and jewelry making. A. C. Hall displayed his carved plaques and figures, and Mrs. Grace E. Ford brought her prize collection of antique cameos. A field trip was planned for February 6—to Bacon Hall in Berkeley. Dr. Adolph Pabst was to be on hand to greet the guests and direct them through the exhibit rooms. George A. Needham, past president of the Northern California Mineral society and honorary member of East Bay Mineral society, was scheduled to speak on "Micromounts" at the February 17 meeting. Needham is president of the Microscopic Society of San Francisco.

Another round table discussion will be the program for the March meeting of the San Jose Lapidary society. The February field trip was a trek to the Second Annual Show of the Monterey Peninsula Mineral society.

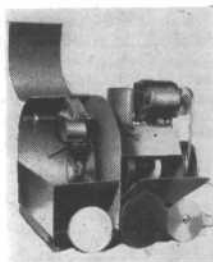
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At the January meeting of the Sacramento Mineral society the entire session was devoted to reports of officers and committees of the 1948 term, and the election and installation of the 1949 officers as follows: George L. Hinsey, president; Lisle Follette, vice president; Mrs. Genevieve Colony, recording secretary; Miss Dagmar Linnet, financial secretary; Mrs. Alta Craig, librarian; and J. B. Nichols, society director. The convention committee was reappointed in its entirety to continue with plans for the June convention.

At the February meeting of the Texas Mineral society held at Baker Hotel in Dallas, Rev. Charles G. Kehler, director of the Fannin county lapidary school, gave an account of his collecting treks in Canada, and of the work the county lapidary school is doing. The school is operated by the state of Texas for the handicapped citizens of Texas who want to learn the trade of silversmith or lapidary.

On January 7, W. C. Kinnon gave a very clear exposition to members of the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, on how valuable components are extracted from ores containing too little value to bear cost of transportation and smelting. "Present methods are vastly different from the laborious freighting of a few tons of carefully hand-picked ore across the desert," said Kinnon. "Some of the present day milling plants devour 20 to 50 and even 100,000 tons of ore each 24 hours, extracting meager values not even seen by the miners of half a century ago." A field trip to Mercury Mine, Dreamy Draw, was scheduled for February 20.

W. B. (Uncle Billy) Pitts, honorary cuator of minerals at the Golden Gate park in San Francisco and honorary member of the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, was guest speaker at a special meeting of the Maricopa Lapidary society, January 19, in the Civic Center house. Uncle Billy showed some of his colored slides. Most of them are thin sections of real minerals. Since his discovery of this method of showing the often hidden beauties within stones Uncle Billy has entertained hundreds of hobbyists.

Pomona Valley Mineral club held its annual auction meeting February 8 at Pomona college. Specimens were furnished by the members and bidding was lively. B. W. Cohoon played role of auctioneer. Nancy Taylor showed slides of a trip taken through Yellowstone park and adjacent territory.

The California Federation has chosen the East Bay Mineral society of Oakland to conduct the auction and raffle at the June convention at Sacramento. Orlin J. Bell, past president of the California Federation, will direct these activities. All societies are urged to aid in every way possible to make the venture a success.

On January 20, members and guests of the Yakima Rock and Mineral club met in the I. O. O. F. hall to enjoy the Club's annual banquet and display. Ross Bradden, a mining engineer from Spokane, Washington, was speaker. The rock and mineral displays included one of Indian rock relics and W. O. Turner's "Ellensburg Blue" agate collection and "Monk" (a moss agate with perfect monk silhouette). Two door prizes of Ellensburg Blue rings were awarded and grab bags of agate and petrified wood earrings and polished slabs were sold to help pay for the activities of the club during the coming year.

AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY'S ANNUAL CONCLAVE IN APRIL

Fourteenth Annual Conclave of the American Gem society is slated for April 3-5, at the Statler hotel in Boston. New gem-testing instruments, methods of identification and gem discoveries will be discussed and demonstrated. Two contests, one in diamond trading, and one in the identification of colored stones, have been scheduled and tentative plans laid for a gemstone fashion show.

East Bay Mineral society of Oakland recently heard Dr. T. K. Cleveland, Ph.D., editor of "The Vortex", bulletin of the California section of the American Chemical society, on the subject of "Chemistry and Things to Come". Another speaker was Francis J. Sperisen, who talked on "Gem and Lapidary Art". He stressed the early attempts to imitate and synthesize precious stones. "Faceting Night" was the significant title of one evening's entertainment. Club members Carpenter, Cameron, Porter, Hawkinson, Higson and Wilcox set up their grinding and polishing machines and invited those present to try their hand at faceting. George B. McClanahan, president of the Sacramento Mineral society, brought his equipment a hundred miles to demonstrate how an expert faceter works. R. M. Addison of the San Jose Lapidary society spoke on "Cameo and Rock Carving". A recent talk by George A. Needham, president of the Microscopic society of San Francisco, was augmented by the showing of 50 colored slides.

At the February 9 meeting of the Long Beach Mineralogical society, Dr. Richard H. Jahns talked on the pegmatites of Southern California. Many of the gem stones are found in the pegmatites of San Diego county. A week-end field trip was planned for February 26-27 to Lead Pipe Springs area.

Regular monthly meeting of the Mineral and Gem society of Castro Valley was held January 17, at the Castro Valley community center building. Orlin J. Bell, past president of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, was speaker of the evening. Bell's topic "Volcanic Igneous Rock, and Gem Stones as Found in Nature" was illustrated with charts, slides and many specimens. Mrs. May Meyers of Hayward also had on display volcanic specimens from her collection.

Members of the Sequoia Mineral society headed for the '49er banquet at Parlier American Legion Hall February 5. A big raffle of rocks and technicolor motion picture of the "Centennial Progress in Gold Mining," were feature attractions. The theme of the banquet centered around the centennial of gold days in California. Display room was open to the public.

January meeting of the Oklahoma Mineral and Gem society was held in the auditorium of the Oklahoma State Historical building. After installation of new officers for 1949, Alvin Markwell talked on synthetic stones. Some of the highlights were: ruby and sapphire is made of aluminum oxide and forms in the shape of a boule. The word boule is French, meaning ball, and early synthetics were formed more or less in the shape of a ball, rather than elongated as they are formed today. Synthetic gems were first manufactured for use as jewel bearings in watches, etc. Synthetics can be worked the same as natural stones. The latest in synthetics is the manufacture of star rubies and sapphires. Synthetics are made in boules and rods and in most colors of the spectrum.

The Los Angeles Police Department now has an official rockhound club. A number of the officers who studied rocks as a hobby, organized and elected H. J. Palmer president. Other officers will be elected at a later date. The club has the active cooperation and support of the Los Angeles Lapidary society.

Art Tanner donated three boxes of material to the Hollywood Lapidary society at the January 13 meeting. Mr. Gordon of Long Beach talked on essential equipment. The door prize, a diamond saw blade, was won by Harold Thomas. A field trip to the Randsburg-Inyokern area was scheduled for late January.

Dr. Gruner discussed "Pegmatites of the Black Hills" at the January meeting of the Minnesota Mineral club. Dr. Gruner illustrated his talk with color slides in the Black Hills, along with some slides of vermiculite mines in Montana and quartz hills in Texas. Vermiculite is expanded by heat and used for insulation. The quartz hills contain rutile, but not in sufficient quantities for mining. Pictures by Bill Bingham and Hazen Perry of last summer's field trips were shown. Junior F. Hayden, past president of the Geology Society of Minnesota, was scheduled to speak at the February meeting, on the subject "Craters of the Moon National Monument." Annual club banquet was planned for March 12, at the Curtis Hotel, and the annual exhibit for April.

"Identification of Crystals" was the topic discussed by Vice President Ernest E. Michael at the meeting of the Yavapai Gem and Mineral society held February 2. Michael illustrated his talk with twelve tile models of crystals recently purchased by the club. He urged that the club eventually acquire models of all 225 known crystal forms. Proceeds from the next rock auction, scheduled for April 6, will be devoted to the purchase of books for the club library.

Members of the Chicago Rock and Minerals society were guests of the Chicago Marquette society's annual open house meeting held January 8, in the lecture room of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Highlight of the event was a display of gemstones, minerals and fluorescent rocks. In addition, color slides of mountains and rare rock specimens were shown.

At the January meeting of Mother Lode Mineral society the following officers were elected: Royal Brown, president; Julian Smith, vice president; Lois Wemyss, secretary-treasurer; A. J. McMeekin and Jo McKibben, directors. After the election the annual auction sale was held under the direction of George Peterson.

Lewis M. Jones, formerly at Canyon Studio, Bisbee, Arizona, expects to open the "Rock Shop and Trading Post" at Deming, New Mexico by March 1. He will specialize in the local New Mexico agate, but will also handle various Spanish and Indian items.

Edward Swoboda was scheduled to speak on "Gems and Gem Localities of Brazil" at the February meeting of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California. Swoboda lived in Brazil eight years and recently returned from a four months' trip there. The club has undertaken the task of furnishing 500 small boxes of California mineral specimens to be given to visitors at the coming Federation show at Sacramento.

COMPARATIVELY FEW DIAMONDS ARE PERFECT

Members and guests of Santa Monica Gemological society heard a talk on diamonds and colored gems, including some not generally known facts about the mining, grading and evaluating of the king of gemstones. Speaker of the evening, Robert R. Fudge, is a Santa Monica engaged in the business of manufacturing custom jewelry and appraising gems. He is recognized as one of the leading authorities on the subject. Pronouncing the American Cut as the ideal for diamonds, he told of attempts through the ages to bring out the best in diamonds, including one stone to his knowledge containing 188 facets. Values have been known to run as high as \$4500 per carat and colored stones have included red, blue, green, orange, canary and black. Fudge emphasized the fact that comparatively few diamonds are 100 per cent perfect. In 1941 he participated in the testing of 1000 selected diamonds. Only 13 passed the rigid test. With the aid of charts, Fudge explained the composition and occurrence of other gemstones from corundums and beryls to the quartz varieties and pearl, including synthetics.

An impromptu discussion on jade and the polishing of jade entertained members of the Kern County Mineral society at the regular January meeting. Due to snow storms and icy highways, scheduled speaker Ralph Dietz of China Lake was unable to reach Bakersfield.

Searles Lake Gem and Mineral society members enjoyed a picture program at the regular February meeting. Shots of the village and surrounding area during the recent unusual snow storm as seen through the lens of several local camera fans were shown. Mrs. Herb Messmer of Westend gave a short talk on the amethyst, birthstone for February. After her talk the club presented her with an amethyst. The stone was donated by Eddie Redenbach and cut by Oscar Walstrom. The presentation of a birthstone of the month to each speaker is to be a regular feature of the meetings throughout the year according to President John Pillott. Other features of the meeting included a report on the '49er Party, raffle of an outstanding mineral, and a mineral display by Ralph Merrill.

San Fernando Valley Mineral society meets the second Thursday of the month at Sepulveda Woman's club, Sepulveda, California, at 8:00 P.M. Visitors are welcome. Ray Willmoth was guest speaker at the February meeting and showed slides of a trip through Bryce and Zion canyons and Crater lake. January field trip was a trek to the Yermo district, and the February trip was to Kramer Hills. Plans for the Annual Show, scheduled for June 11-12, are being formulated.

At the February meeting, Coachella Valley Mineral society members planned to have a booth at the County Fair. Junior Rockhounds sponsored by the mineral society and supervised by O. A. Rush, Sr. and his committee, were to have space allotted them in the same booth for their own displays. The Juniors recently made an educational tour of the Kaiser iron mine near Desert Center. Dr. H. W. Wood was speaker for the evening and gave an amusing account of his search for mineral specimens and rocks last summer. He displayed some fine specimens of Montana agate.

Chicago Rocks and Minerals society meeting of January 15 was devoted entirely to business. Isaac Coldevin was elected vice president; Mrs. Helen Cooke, corresponding secretary; and Stevens T. Norvell appointed chairman of the program committee. A collection was started for the purchase of a fine mineral specimen of fluorite and quartz crystals, and members were urged to loan other specimens for the display case. February 12 meeting was to be an observance of the club's third birthday.

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Just Between You and Me

By RANDALL HENDERSON

ONE NIGHT in February I camped with members of the Sierra club near the entrance to the famous Palm canyon which, more than any other scenic attraction, brought fame to Palm Springs. We were on the reservation of the Mission tribe of Cahuilla Indians, and had to get special permission to remain overnight in their domain.

With an estimated 3000 native Washingtonia palms growing along a tumbling stream of water, Nature created in this place one of the loveliest retreats in the Southwest. But it isn't a lovely place today. It is strewn with the debris that undisciplined visitors have scattered over the landscape.

The fault is due partly to the Indians who own the canyon, partly to the Indian service, and partly to you and me—because we are prone to confuse the virtue of soft-heartedness with the vice of soft-headedness.

The Indians collect a toll from every one who enters the canyon. I understand the amount runs as high as two or three thousand dollars a month in the tourist season. No one begrudges them that income, although they are one of the richest tribes in the Southwest. Their fault is that they give nothing in return. The trails are ill-kept. Refuse and decaying wood litters the ground among the palms. The accumulation of paper and bottles and tin cans not only is ugly, but it is unsanitary, and a hazard which easily could result in a repetition of the disastrous fire which swept through the canyon a few years ago.

The fault of the Indian service is a failure of leadership. Apparently the Indians have not been taught that if they assume the right to tax the public for its enjoyment of this magnificent canyon, that right carries with it an obligation to preserve and protect the natural beauty of this place. True, the Indians own the land. But Palm Canyon, like Zion and Carlsbad and Grand Canyon, has certain intangible values which are above and beyond mere property ownership. One cannot acquire a deed to the beauty and artistry of a gorgeous landscape.

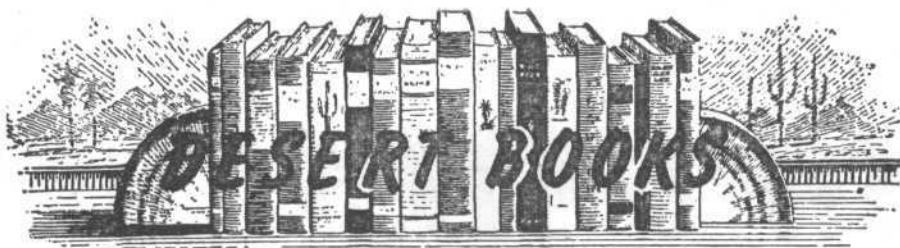
My failure and yours is that we are so busy with our own affairs we have not insisted that the whole Indian problem be dealt with in a forthright manner. We proved our tender-heartedness by raising great sums of money and trainloads of supplies to give to the Indians when they were in need. We open the way to the accusation of soft-headedness when we permit our representatives in congress to treat the Indians like untutored children having neither the opportunity nor the incentive to assume the dignity of free citizenship.

Palm Canyon is dirty and ugly today because the Mission Indians are being handled like a tribe of spoiled children. As any good business man knows, it would be highly profitable for them to keep that canyon clean and attractive. A little work would pay huge dividends. I rather think the Indians could be taught this simple lesson if their guardians in the Indian service would apply themselves to the task.

I've just finished reading the proofs for the Letters page of this issue of *Desert*—and am more puzzled than ever regarding this spooky business of water-witching. The scientific men say it is phoney, and the federal government even published a bulletin showing the fallacy of trying to locate underground water by carrying a green stick over the surface. If I was going to put down a well I am sure I would hire a geologist—and not a water-witch. Nevertheless I have a great curiosity regarding this witching business. We humans still have only a very elementary knowledge of the unseen forces at work in this planet.

"Have you run out of palm canyons to write about?" asks one of *Desert's* readers. The answer is "no." There are still many palm oases on the Southern California desert, and immediately below the line in Baja California, which have not yet been reported through the pages of *Desert Magazine*—or any other magazine. And I am impatient to be out there in the jeep taking pictures and notes for stories to be written about them. The business of getting *Desert's* new workshop in smooth operation has taken much time this winter. But one of these days I am going to turn the task of entertaining visitors and writing letters over to other members of the staff—and go back to my old job as field reporter.

I hope the weather gods are good to us this season, for the stage is set for such a wildflower display as the desert has not known for many years. In another two or three weeks the bajadas should be glowing with golden brilliance of encelia, the daily purple phacelia will be peeping out from under its mother shrubs, and the dunes will be spread with verbena and primrose and desert sunflower. This is the promise—but late freezing temperatures or premature hot winds are always a possibility at this season of the year, and they could do much damage. But despite the worst that could happen there will be flowers—millions of them. They will be worth coming many miles to see.



NEW VOLUME COVERS POWELL'S EXPEDITIONS

On May 24, 1869, Major John Wesley Powell and nine companions launched their four boats in the Green River at Green River station, Wyoming territory. They had packed provisions and equipment for a ten-month exploration of the canyons of the Green and Colorado rivers. Many minor mishaps and a score of near disasters so reduced their supplies that the voyage through the hitherto untraversed canyons became a race against starvation and death. Three of the men left the party at Separation rapids, not knowing that in one day more, achievement of their goal was at hand.

EXPLORATION OF THE COLORADO RIVER IN 1869, is the subject of the Utah Historical Society's 15th volume. Described by Levi Edgar Young, society president, as the finest and one of the largest volumes ever published by the society, it contains the original journals of exploration of the river in 1869 written by Major John Wesley Powell.

In addition to Major Powell's on-the-spot journals, the volume contains biographical sketches of every member of the expedition, written by William Culp Darrah, Medford, Mass. With these sketches are the journals of Jack Sumner and George Bradley—diaries which hitherto have been unknown to historians of the West.

Early in 1870, Major Powell obtained federal appropriation to further his explorations of the Colorado River and its tributaries, and with the opportunity afforded by government support, made preparations for a second and more thorough survey. The 270-page volume also contains a journal kept by Captain F. M. Bishop, a member of the second Powell expedition in 1871-72, and a resume of Colorado river exploration before Major Powell's historic journey.

The Colorado is one of North America's greatest rivers, and today roars down through its lonely canyons exactly as it did 78 years ago. Those whose bent is adventure will find in the journals of the Powell parties a vivid description of adventure still to be had. Fewer than 200 white men have seen the innermost recesses of the Colorado's mighty gorges. As Powell was scientist as well as adventurer, scholars in many fields will find in the journals recorded scientific fieldwork of enduring interest and importance.

Utah State Historical Society, 337 State Capitol, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1947. Biographical sketches and original documents of the first and second Powell Expeditions, illustrations, maps.

THE PROVOCATIVE LANDSCAPE THAT STIRS THE EMOTIONS

TAOS—land of sun and shadow, has attracted artists for over 40 years. Bert Phillips and Ernest Blumenschein were the first of the famous Seven, whose paintings hang now in most of the museums in America and in countless private collections. They came in their covered wagon to Taos, New Mexico, in 1898 on a sketch-

ing trip from Denver to Mexico City. Fascinated by the paintable landscape and the colorful Indians at the Taos pueblo, they sold their team and remained to begin the Taos Art Colony. A number of painters had been through the area before but Blumenschein and Phillips, by their exhibitions throughout the country, popularized the region.

Other painters followed—Joseph Henry Sharp, Irving Couse, Oscar Berninghouse, Walter Ufer. In 1914 the Taos group organized the Taos Society of Artists. This group held regular spring and autumn exhibits in well-known art centers, and fame of the Taos colony spread.

In 1923 a group called the New Mexico Painters was formed which combined both the Taos and the Santa Fe colonies. This organization sent paintings on circuits of the entire country. In 1925 Burt Harwood settled in Taos and erected an art gallery which housed paintings and art objects he had collected in years of travel. At his death the gallery was left to the town as an art and community center, and named the Harwood Foundation. In 1930 the Harwood Foundation was taken over by the University of New Mexico for its summer art school, and in 1932 was named the Taos School of Art under the direction of Emil Bisttram.

From this unusual art colony has come an art as varied as the personalities of its creators; the surrealism of Thomas Benrimo, the Indian scholarship of Joseph Imhof and the abstractions of Emil Bisttram.

In *Taos and Its Artists*, Mabel Dodge Luhan introduces forty-nine of the Taos artists in a short, vivid text together with full-page illustrations, many of paintings never reproduced before. Portraits and biographies of the artists are included in this first book on the Taos movement.

Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc. 270 Madison Av, New York 16, NY., 1947. 168 pps. full-page illustrations, portraits and biographies of artists. \$3.75.

INDIANS WANT BETTER THINGS — AND EDUCATION

When her husband, Hugh Fiske of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, went into the field for the Indian Service, Elizabeth French Fiske left a comfortable and convenient way of life for an isolated corner of a desert largely inhabited by Apaches—a land of storm without rain, grief without tears.

In *I Lived Among the Apaches*, Mrs. Fiske narrates a lively but touching account of her adventures on an Indian reservation. In her sojourns in the Indian villages within the triangle formed by the San Marcos, Fort Apache and Whiteriver agencies, she found the younger Indians friendly, the old Indians—cold and unresponsive. Mrs. Fiske relates several Indian legends as they were told to her and describes the Devil dance which the government has tried to outlaw. The Apaches danced the Devil dance when there were no white men on their earth—"it is a relapse into savagery, a repetition of ugly gestures, a return to sinister superstition and behavior," says Mrs. Fiske.

The sub-title of the book, "An appreciation of the virtues and emotions of the Indian American," gives an idea of what Mrs. Fiske wanted to do when she planned the book. Into the sensitive love story of an Indian boy and girl, she weaves the threads of pathos, tragedy and hope in the continual struggle of the Indians' adjustment to the white man's world. The old Indians are clinging to their ancient beliefs and hating the white man's intrusion. But youth is grasping at better things that must lie beyond the filth and disease-infested dwellings they have known. White man's lack of dignity and honesty—and whiskey, has retarded Indian progress. But good white men make Indians better men! More and more Indians like the white man's way of farming, of raising cattle and sheep, and those who glimpse a better way of life through education determine to try to free their children from the misery they endure.

With keen understanding of human nature Mrs. Fiske presents the Indian as a human being. "I had learned to respect them because they had earned my respect—had we earned theirs?" she ponders. *I Lived Among the Apaches* is light reading—but good for a better understanding of the Indian and his problems.

Trail's End Publishing Co., Inc. Elizabeth French Fiske, 2085 Courtland Av, San Marino 9, California, 1947. 163 pps. \$2.50.

FIELD BOOK OF WESTERN WILD FLOWERS . . .

By Margaret Armstrong in collaboration with J. J. Thornber, A.M.

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